閃乱カグラ

XHAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

12

林家志弦

Cover Design:Yoko Iwasa

UJ ウルトラ YJC

はやてのごとく！ クロス×ブレイド 12

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

林家志弦

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集英社

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雑誌 44268－64

The first-ever graduate from the Swordsmanship Scholarship program, Yanagi Makoto. And the great Battle Royal, involving every single swordbearer in the school, convened as her farewell party: the "Dai-randori"!

The Whiteshirts, and even a mysterious knight clad in black, take the stage on Mt. Hifumi, site for the ultimate culmination of chaos!

Sae vs. Jun, Yukari vs. Meiko, Nancy vs. Maki, Nagi vs. Ensuu, and finally, Hayate vs. Ayana...!

As various match-ups never to be seen in normal circumstances unfold all over, who will be left standing at the end...!?

HAYATE CROSS BLADE

A child who was merely a kinder-gartner at our start, would now be in middle school.

Poot-tweee

Volume 12.

Judging from the number of chapters, about six years in the making.

You can't increase the number of volumes by advancing time for Kurogane-san, you know.

Six years' worth at one go.

Milk

Or, to frame it in a way more amenable to the understanding: Kurogane-san would now be old enough to graduate from our high school division.

make me grow up?

Milk will

Come then, Kurogane-san. It is time to grow.

はやくろぶれーど!!

TWELFTH 12 KNIGHT

OR WHAT YOU WILL

SHIZURU HAYASHIYA

はやて×ブレード

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

12

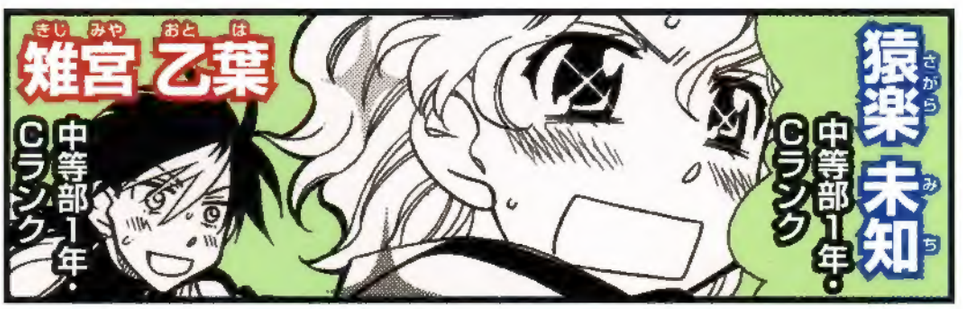
STORY×CHARACTERS

剣技特待生の乙女たちが、日々バカ熱い戦いを繰り広げる『天地学園』。
卒業生送別イベント“大乱奪り”が開幕。全剣待生入り乱れてのバトル
ロワイヤル！ 邀撃要員白服の参戦、さらに謎の黒騎士登場で大混乱に…!!

はっ
朱炎雪
高等部2年・Aランク

犬神五十鈴
中等部1年・Cランク

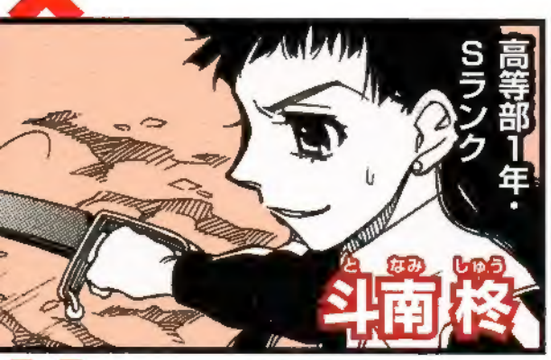
中等部1年・Cランク
吉備桃香


雉宮乙葉
中等部1年・Cランク
猿楽未知
中等部1年・Cランク

氷室瞑子
高等部2年・Aランク

士道美沙子
高等部1年・Sランク

神門玲
高等部1年・Sランク
祈紗枝
高等部1年・Sランク


高等部1年・Sランク
斗南柊

宝田りおな
中等部2年・Cランク
この壊れっぷり
鬼吏谷桜花
中等部2年・Cランク

貴水蒼
中等部2年・Bランク
浅倉みずち
中等部3年・Bランク

星河紅愛
高等部1年・元Sランク
月島みのり
高等部1年・元Sランク

帯刀洸
天地ひつぎの側近

天地学園・保健師
瓜生愛

天地学園・星奪り番判員
小竹莉菜

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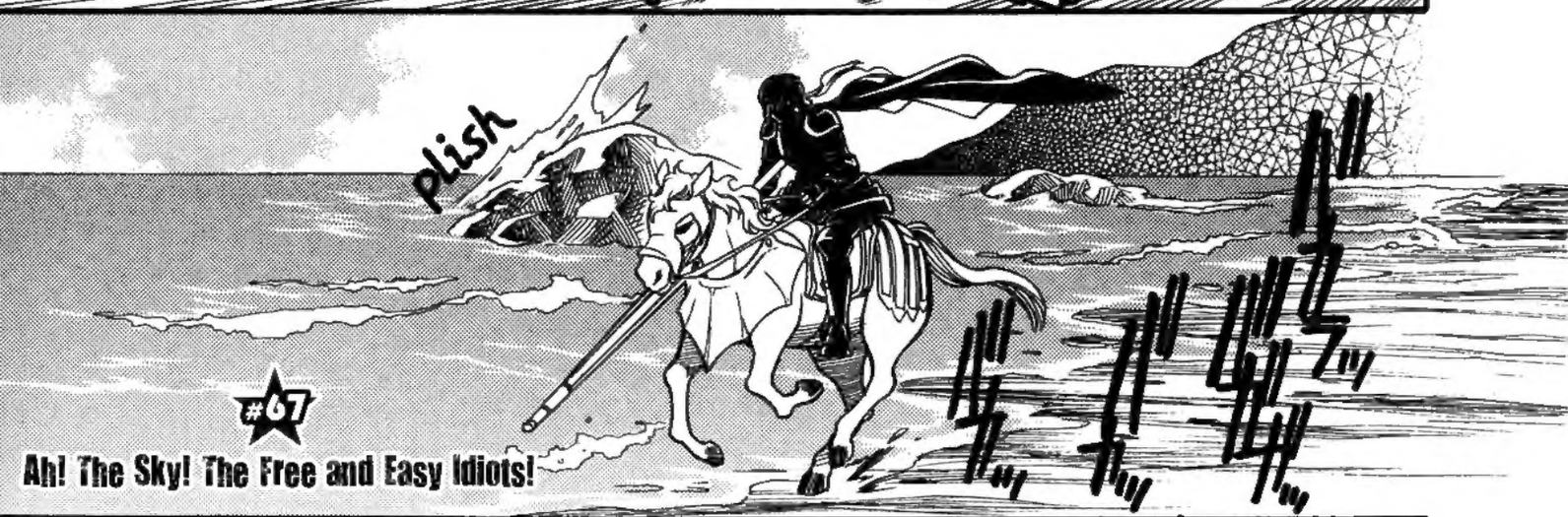


#67

Ah! The Sky! The Free and Easy Idiots!

DOOO

THAT IS I, TEN-CHI'S BL-
PRESI-DENT.
WE KNOW IT'S YOU. THAT'S ENOUGH, PLEASE.
slip
PROTECTING THE WEAK. CRUSHING THE STRONG. A CYCLONE IN SABLE:
NEIGHHHHHH
Thought I... heard something like... the ocean?
Mmm?

#67

Ah! The Sky! The Free and Easy Idiots!

Ha ha ha!

HQ: Station #2

WELL, TAKE YOUR TIME AND GET YOURSELF NICE AND WARM. I'LL KEEP THIS A SECRET.

I KNOW! TRULY THE HEIGHT OF EMBARRASS-MENT...!

What? There's a knight riding around?

Have you been dreaming?

NO, I THINK I'LL HEAD BACK UP NOW. I'VE ALREADY CHANGED CLOTHES, AFTER ALL.

CERTAINLY NEVER EXPECTED A WHITESHIRT TO COME DOWN DRIPPING WET.

AHHHH HA HA HA HA HA HA!!

twist

MOVING AROUND A LITTLE WILL WARM ME UP, RIGHT?

AND THAT SEEMS TO BE WHERE THE FUN IS RIGHT NOW.

...

SHOULD SOMEONE ON THE MEDICAL STAFF REALLY BE SAYING THAT...?

GREAT TO SEE 'EM SO ENER-GETIC!

A MIDDLE- OR HIGH-SCHOOL AGED GIRL SHOULD GO UNTIL SHE'S VOMITING BLOOD.

...

Thanks for all your help!

I'll see you, then!

Stamp

THOUGH, I GET THE FEELING—

WE MIGHT BE SMELLING SOME BLOOD TOO, BEFORE LONG.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE OF.

IT'S FINE! THEY WON'T DIE OR ANYTHING.

WITH THAT KINDA ATTITUDE, THEY CAN JUST GO OUT AND PLAY TO THEIR HEARTS' CONTENT.

KIDS LIKE THAT SHOULD ONLY WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S IN FRONT OF 'EM.

Right

Everyone, please ignore whatever the pervert says

Let's run through our periodic check-up

EVEN IF YOU'RE HAVING A HEART ATTACK, OR GUSHING BLOOD FROM EVERY PART OF YOUR BODY, WE'LL PATCH YOU UP!

Anyone at all is fine, just come!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, COME RIGHT ON DOWN!

Yes ma'am

IF YOU THINK I'M WEAK, JUST COME STRAIGHT OUT AND SAY IT!

THE VOICE OF THIS DEFENSELESS SWORDBEARER, HOSHIKAWA KUREA, CALLED ME TO THIS PLACE.

I AM BUT THE CONSTANT ALLY OF THOSE WHO ENTREAT ME.

FOR ONE WHO IS MERELY "WEAK", HOSHIKAWA-SAN.

THE BLACK KNIGHT DOES NOT MOVE

...

THAT IS CORRECT.

YOU MOVE FOR WHOEVER SEEMS INTERESTING, RIGHT?

whinny

SO, EXACTLY THE SAME AS ALWAYS.

...

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS THAT YOU WERE JUST WATCHING QUIETLY FROM THE SIDELINES, BUT...

I can feel my head spinning a little

I SEE. SO THIS WAS YOUR LITTLE SCHEME ALL THIS TIME?

"LITTLE SCHEME"... HOW DISHONORABLY YOU PHRASE IT.

A MATCH TO ONE STRIKE.
SO THEN, INTERCEPTOR MIYAMOTO SHIZUKU. LET US CONTEND.
I'LL HAVE TO CURB THAT UNCHECKED FREEDOM OF YOURS A BIT.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

LET'S GO, MINORI. WE'RE RUNNING AWAY.
MINORI!
WELL, I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT GUESS THIS IS OUR CHANCE?
Right?
W...

WELL, I SURE AIN'T!!

Wh

IF WE DON'T HURRY, SOMEONE ELSE'LL LAY CLAIM TO THAT "EDIBLE GOODS" OPTION.

BUT, KUREA!!

THAT'S RIGHT! LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!

Oh yeah!

HEY, PREZ!! DON'T STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT ISN'T NEEDED!

DOOFUS!! KEEP HANGING AROUND HERE AND WE'LL...

-AT ARE YOU SAY-ING!?

Hmfch

JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE, AND I HAD HER!

FORGET ABOUT THAT, IT DOESN'T MATTER! THAT'S NOT EVEN OUR OBJECTIVE HERE ANYWAY!

A BATTLE BETWEEN THOSE TWO...

IF THEY'RE ONLY FIGHTING TO THE FIRST HIT, THAT'S ALL THE TIME IT BUYS US.

AT WORST, IT COULD TAKE A LIFETIME.

BUT MORE LIKELY ...

JUST A MOMENT!

rear

THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY!

POUND POUND POUND POUND

BASICALLY, hURRY UP AND GET AS FAR FROM THIS PLACE AS POSSIBLE??

Aghhhh

VOOSH
SPLENDID!
SPLINTER
AS WERE YOU.

Receiver
BZZZZZZ
INDEED. THAT WILL HAVE TO BE IT FOR HERE.
NEIGH-EH-EH
THAT WASN'T ENOUGH...? YOU'RE KEEPING THIS UP...?
YET ANOTHER VOICE CALLS OUT TO ME FOR AID.
Y-
OOF!

WELL, LOOKS LIKE THEY MADE A PRETTY CLEAN GETAWAY.
GEEZ LOUISE ...
Sigh...
CAN WE MAKE THAT IT FOR THE DAY? THERE'S ENOUGH CHAOS IN THIS PLACE WITHOUT YOU BRINGING MORE.

I AM! I AM RUNNING! SINCE, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S OUT TO MURDER US BOTH!

HRAHHH!

BUT STILL... THAT SAID...

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT NOW!?!? JUST RUN, KIJICCHAN!!!

I JUST STEPPED ON SOMETHING BACK HERE!!

I JUST...

MICHI!

PFF

PFF

PFF

PFF

BZZZZZ

HECK IF I KNOW!!

AND HOW DO WE DO THAT? HOW DO WE GET AWAY??

pant

pant

TILL WE GET AWAY!!

pant

DO WE PLAN TO KEEP ON RUNNING!?

JUST HOW LONG...

MMMM, WELL, WELLLL...

Then what are we going to do!?

pant

pant

LOOK AT THE PERSON WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!! YOUR TRICKS WERE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR MOKACHIN. AND YOU THINK THEY'D WORK ON HER???

I'll $%#€€# stick this up your @%$# and

Wait up you coupla %@$#$ bitches!!

ENOUGH OF THIS... I'LL JUST USE MY POWERS!

I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THIS WITH OUR SWORDS ALONE, BUT...

NOPE, NONE WHATSOEVER!

YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN?

Ooh!

ALL RIGHT!

LET'S SPLIT UP INTO TWO HERE!

THEN, WE'LL JUST AD-LIB FROM THERE.

PLANNED WITH VERY MICHI-LIKE HAPHAZARD-NESS... IT'S LOVELY...

FOR NOW, I'LL TRY TO DRAW HER ATTENTION TOWARDS ME.

YOU SEE IF YOU CAN CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND HER.

MICHIIIII !!!

.....

.....

.....

WE'LL AT LEAST BE BETTER OFF THAN JUST SPRINTING AROUND ALL BUNCHED TOGETHER, RIGHT!?

GEEEEZ, BE *QUIET* ALREADY!

WH-!!

RIGHT!!

AGH, WHATEVER! SEE WHAT I CARE!

ANYWAYS, LET'S GIVE IT A GO!!

IF I HAVE TO FOCUS ON LOTS OF THINGS AT ONCE, MY HEAD CAN'T KEEP UP WITH 'EM ALL!!!

grit

THOSE FUCKERS!!... THOUGHT THIS ONE THROUGH, DID THEY!?

Not really, no.

EEEEEGh!! ABOUT AS EASY AS FISHING FOR A DINOSAUR!!

You just call me a "mother-fucker," mother-fucker!?!?

OVER HERE, YOU... ERM... MOTHERF... MOTHER-FARMER...?

HEY! HEYYY!

BOING

BOING

Wha!!?

IF I WEAVE HER THROUGH THE TREES, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO SWING AROUND A SWORD THAT BIG.

NO NO NO, CALM DOWN.

OHHHH-KAY!!

I got around behind her!

MICHI!

KIJIC-CHAN!

WHICH MEANS, SHE CAN ONLY TRY TO BRING IT STRAIGHT DOWN ON ME.

clink

IF I KNOW THAT MUCH, EVEN I CAN MAKE DO SOMEHOW.

MENT...

SLICE

MOVE-

IF WE CAN CUT OFF HER

WATCH FOR YOUR OPENING!!

KIJIC-CHAN!!

EH?

STOP HER SWORD RIGHT HERE!—

I'LL!—

Gi.

ay

h

h

h

h

h

EUGH

Eugh...

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON THE WHITESHIRTS,

FUCKER.

WOM

!!

...

RM...

MI-

MICHI!!!

SLUMP...

WEIT WEIT WEEEEET

flap!!
BOTH PARTIES, PLEASE HALT HOSTILITIES IMMEDIATELY!
BREAK IT UP!
KUROGANE NAGI, JU ENSUU!
PLEASE STOP! WE NEED TO MAKE A RULING ON POSSIBLE DANGEROUS CONDUCT—
AH!!
AH, IT'S FINE. SAVED ME THERE.
ONE OF THEM, HUH...?
HUH?
Coming, right away!
Guess we'll have to just let her go
TO STOP THE BLEEDING AND ENSURE AGAINST ANY ADDITIONAL ISSUES, WE'LL BE CONDUCTING A NURSE CHECK-UP.
...THE PRESENCE OF BLOOD WAS CONFIRMED BOTH BY MONITOR AND DIRECT OBSERVATION.
Tch.
I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT UP HERE.
Hoo...
AHH...
...
Hnn?

EH...
NAH, THIS WASN'T BECAUSE SHE WAS DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL.
IT'S MY OWN FAULT I ENDED UP LIKE THIS.
THERE WERE A FEW THRUSTS MY SWORD COULDN'T CATCH UP TO, SO I HAD TO BLOCK THEM WITH MY HANDS OR MY HEAD.
THAT'S ALL IT WAS.
BOUND
...
What...
was that?

No wavering.
No hesitation.
No fear.
...—
Perhaps there's still...
fun to be had here after all...!

However, as the wound on your left hand IS fairly deep,
I do think it'd be better to retire, as a precaution...
Ooh...
...
Aside from the lacerations to the skin, there appear to be no other concerns.

But, before all that comes...
Ja
Jaaang

—OR RATHER, THAT HURTS QUITE A BIT ALREADY... DOESN'T IT!?

BUT YOU KNOW, WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL FINE NOW, LATER IT MIGHT...

B-

I TOLD YOU, IT'S FINE!

IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.

I WON'T GET INTO ANY MORE SERIOUS SCRAPS LIKE THAT.

NO, NO, I'M FINE, HONEST.

AND I'LL COME GET IT FULLY TREATED AFTER THE EVENT, I PROMISE.

Yoof

Eh...?

THAT... HAS TO ACTUALLY REALLY, REALLY HURT, RIGHT...?

Swordbearers are something else

... ...

FOR REAL ...?

TRAMP

TRAMP

I STILL HAVE TO TAKE IT EASY WITH MY REHAB.

No good

WHERE'S MY HEAD AT, REALLY... CAN'T KEEP FORGETTING,

TRAMP TRAMP

I can tell it's a pretty severe wound.

Well, there may not be any pain, but...

TRAMP

I'll behave myself from here on out.

After all, I'm really only here to see what *she* does.

Though... if she does end up going a certain way...

I'll be there to start a fight.

If I'm gonna be retiring from this thing,

I can do it after *that*.

And so.

right now I'm...

whereabouts exactly?

GI-
VE...
ME A FREAKING BREAK ALREADY!!!
whoomp
PANT...
PANT...
PANT...
Pant
crash
YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON BY NOW, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
ouch
SEE, LOOK AT THAT.
Pant

KEEP ON POUNDING AND POUNDING AWAY AT ME, TONAMI-SAN!!!
NOT JUST YET!!!
YOU PEOPLE'S OBJECTIVE IS THE GRADUATING STUDENT.
Still sparkling all over the damn place... and beaming like that.
Hmph!
Hmph!
IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE ENTHUSIASTIC AND ALL, BUT AREN'T YOU CONFUSED ABOUT SOMETHING HERE?
LOOK HERE NOW, YOU...
Ugh
God damn it...
YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
THAT'S ENOUGH TIME I'VE SPENT ON A SINGLE PERSON.
IT'S FINE. I'LL JUST SAY "YOU FOUGHT BRAVELY!" OR WHATEVER AND YOU CAN GO AHEAD.
THE GRADUATING STUDENT'S STAR COMES AFTER THAT!!
MY OBJECTIVE FOR THE DAY IS TO RUN FROM NOTHING, AND TO ALWAYS FIGHT THROUGH TO THE END!!
Megishi

WHAT A PAIN IN THE NECK.

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE INTO, I REALLY WISH...

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.

AND IF YOU GET ELIMINATED TRYING, IT'S EVEN MORE MEANING-LESS.

WHY ARE YOU SO STUCK ON THIS?

YOU'D GO GET YOUR KICKS WITH SOMEBODY *ELSE*.

IT'D BE MEANINGLESS TO MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT EXPENDING THE EFFORT FIRST.

BECAUSE I'M A SENPAI.

hUh!?

...—

WHOA!

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
YOU LITTLE ...
GH!
RH...
duck
!!!
PEH...
Not good...
What!?
How the hell did she just...
MY SHINYUU IS...
AN UNDER-CLASSMAN, ONE YEAR MY JUNIOR.

BUT I TRULY HAVE RESPECT FOR THOSE GIRLS.

THEY'RE ALL INCREDIBLE PEOPLE.

I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF UNDERCLASSMEN AMONG THE SWORDBEARERS I KNOW.

INCLUDING SOME A LOT YOUNGER THAN THAT.

slide

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE BORN SLIGHTLY SOONER, THAT'S ALL, BUT...

STILL, AS THEIR SENPAI, IT'S MY JOB TO ACT JUST A LITTLE BIT COOLER!

SO IT'S OKAY IF I MAKE YOU ALL COOL AND BEATEN-UP, RIGHT?

CAN'T SAY I HATE THAT KINDA SIMPLE-MINDED THINKING.

....

ohh?

I NEVER SAID I'D GO THAT FAR.

EVEN IF YOU BREAK EVERY ONE OF MY BONES AND SMASH THEM ALL INTO TEA POWDER.

WHETHER SCUFFED-UP, BEATEN-UP OR ROUGHED-UP,

I COULDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE.

IN YOUR CASE, I THINK MAYBE YOU *WANT* TO FEEL PAIN...?

IF YOU'RE AFRAID TO FEEL PAIN, YOU CAN NEVER ADVANCE!

IT'S WHAT ANYONE WHO GOES TO FIGHT MUST EXPECT!

rustle rustle

...

YU...

ｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞｺﾞ

!!

GRIT

...

I...

I'M IN A HURRY!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIGHT YOU RIGHT NOW.

...

THIS ONCE, JUST LET ME THROUGH!!

slash!

!

I'LL DEFINITELY

SETTLE THE SCORE, ALL RIGHT!?

-...

S-

SO-

SOME OTHER TIME... I PROMISE...

LIM-

hop

hop

.....

.....

.....

TRUE ENOUGH.

THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE TIME.

GO AHEAD.

Though, to be honest...

I wanted, just a little bit, to see how far she's come.

Sigh...

ka-chik

...

ERM...

and what?

Go ahead.

...MM?

I'm telling you to hurry up and GO!!!

FOOM

RIGHT!!!

But,

not just yet.

WHAT A SHORT-TIMER YOU TURNED OUT TO BE.

COULDN'T EVEN TAKE A LIGHT LITTLE SESSION LIKE THAT?

...

HEY HEY HEY NOW.

WELL, I GOT NO INTEREST IN SOMEBODY WHO'S ALL TRIPPED-OUT.

Rghhh

VOOO...

SO NEXT IT'S YOUR TURN, SUCKER.

MOOOSH

S

....

SS

H

H.

HHHH

H

...chi...

ENH?

?

WHAT'S WRONG, WANKO?

Prick

!

No, it's...

IF THEY'RE WATCHING ON THE MONITOR, THE JUDGES'RE PROBABLY ON THEIR WAY OVER NOW.

SORRY TO SAY, BUT THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU'LL BE GETTING TODAY.

LITTLE CHICKEN'S PUTTING OUT A PRETTY NICE AURA ALL OF A SUDDEN!

HAH-HA!

BRING IT ON!!

YOU HURT MICHI.

VSSSHHHHH

YOU... HURT HER.

GRGH

GET READY TO TAKE THIS HYPED-UP SOLO STRAIGHT TO YOUR-

BLACK KNIGHT ON THE SCENE.

trot

trot

trot

.....

.....

.....

.....

ON THE SCENE.

Huh?

Right.

Trivia

Page 5

Roughneck Black Knight: Reference to the long-running historical television drama, *Roughneck Shogun* (*Abarenbō Shōgun*). The image of riding horseback along the shore is another nod to the show.

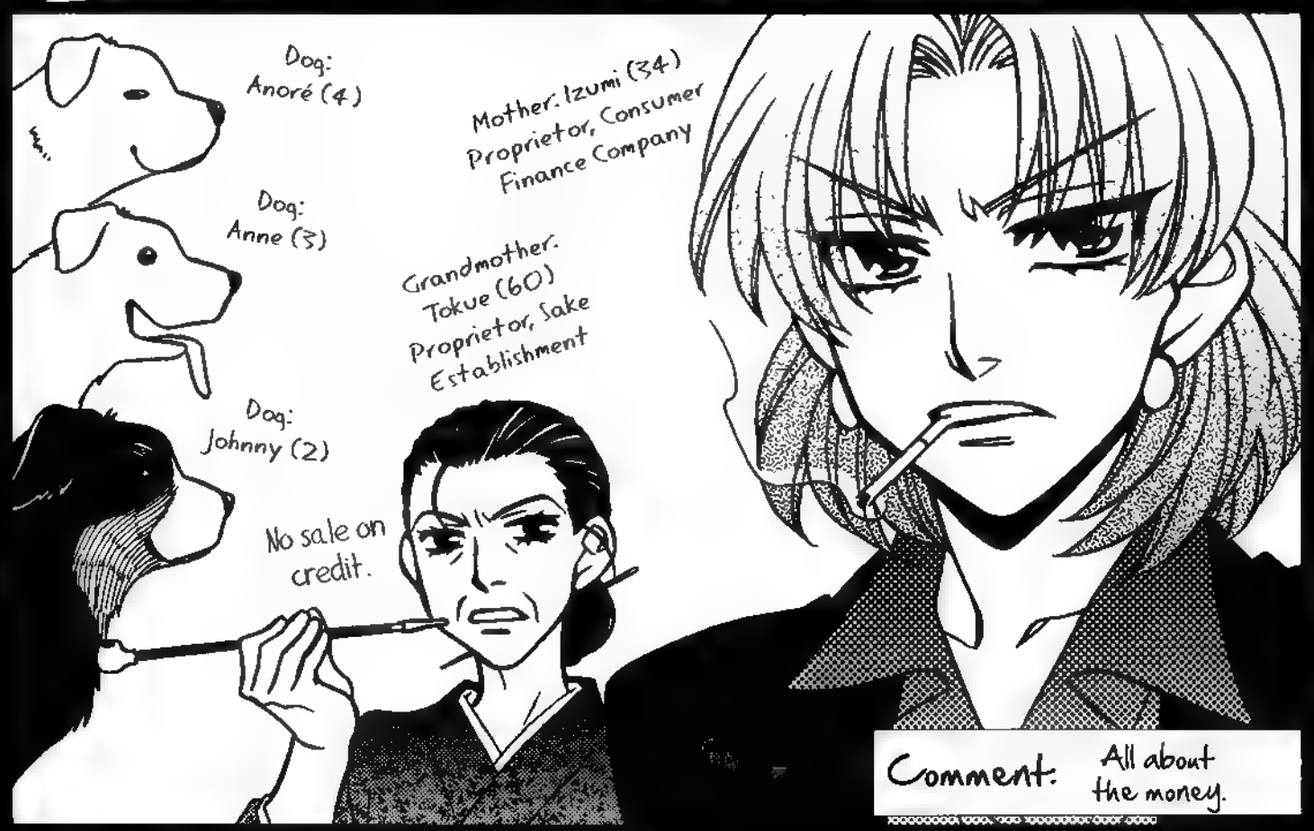
Page 18

Motherfarmer: Michi confuses the English term she's looking for with Mother Farm, a guest ranch located in Chiba Prefecture.

MIDDLE SCHOOL, YEAR 3, CLASS A

Swordbearer Family Survey

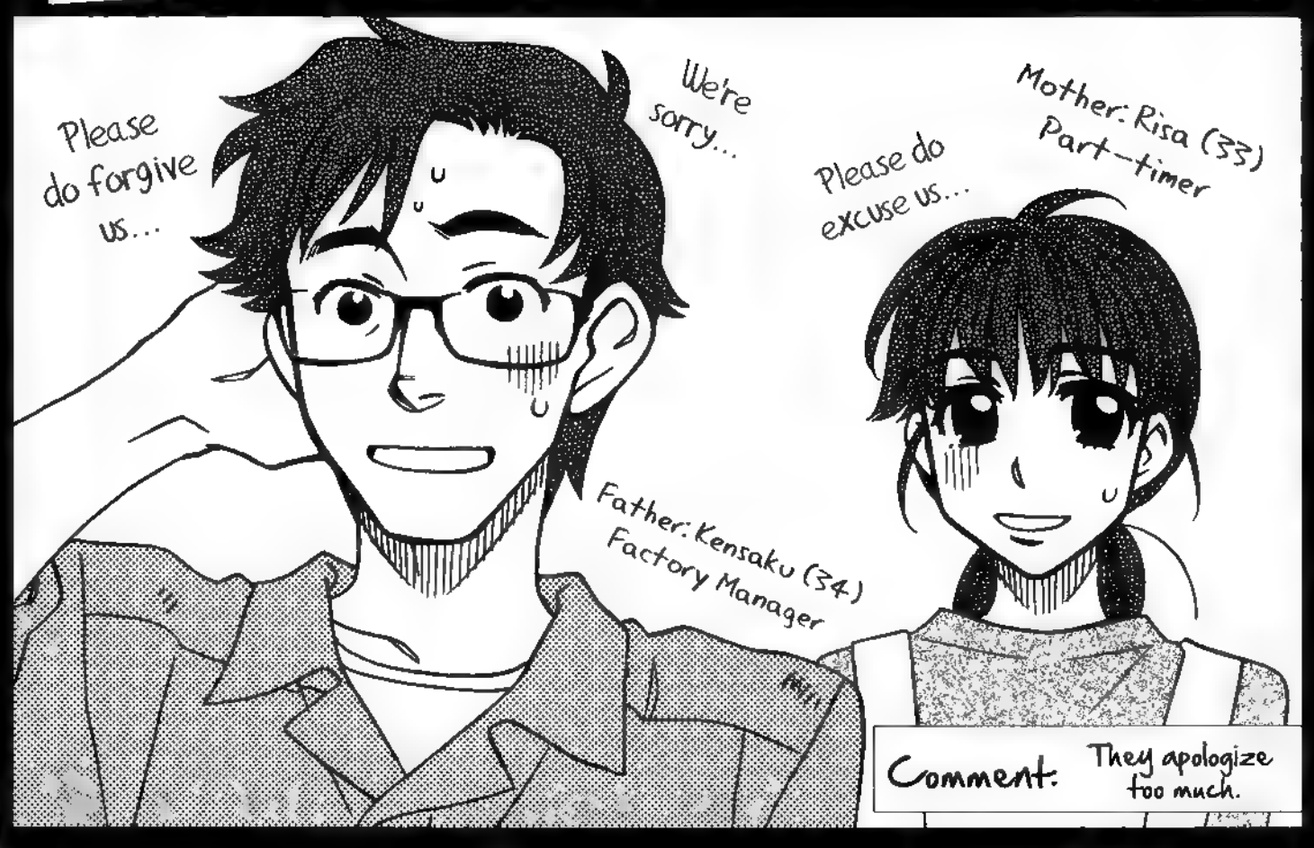
ASAKURA MIZUCHI



MIDDLE SCHOOL, YEAR 2, CLASS A

Swordbearer Family Survey

TAKAMI SOU



ACK!!

#68 Bakasuka Wars

BAGWUMP

It's nothin', I'm used to this.

Ohh...

ARE YOU BADLY WOUNDED!?

FORGIVE ME, KURO-GANE-DONO!!

BWOOSH

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

I'M FINE. TOTALLY FINE!

Wahhh,

SWACK CRACK CRACK

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO WITH-DRAW FOR A BIT, AND REST?

BUT, YOU DO SEEM AFFECTED BY FATIGUE AS WELL...

OURGH!!

THAT'S ODD... DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE IT SHOULD BE THIS BAD...

WOBBLE WOBBLE WOBBLE

MY LEGS ARE REALLY LAUGHING UP A STORM DOWN THERE...

YOOF...

oh ha ha ha

Hee ha ha ha

Hrah ha ha ha

Heee hee hee hee

Even though this is so much fun...

...

I wonder why...

Phweee

#68

Bakasuka Wars

It's...

kinda rough some-how...

GRAHHH!!

Grah!

Grah!

JUST BY LOOKING, GOTTA BE AT LEAST 30 MORE BACK THERE!

HOW HAVE WE NOT CLEARED THIS PLACE OUT YET!?

WE KEEP CUTTING 'EM DOWN ONE AFTER ANOTHER, BUT THEIR NUMBERS JUST DON'T GO DOWN!!

REALLY THOUGH...

PANT... PANT...

THE ONES WE STARTED WITH, THAT IS.

oh?

NO,

I BELIEVE WE HAVE PRETTY MUCH CLEANED THEM UP.

WHAT'S *WITH* THESE PEOPLE...

IS THAT OTHER STUDENTS ARE GATHERING AROUND AND STARTING TO FILTER IN AMONG THEM.

THE REASON IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THEIR NUMBER IS DECREAS-ING....

AND THEY'RE PROBABLY JUST WAIT-ING FOR US TO BEAT EACH OTHER UP!

WE CAN GUESS THEY'RE ALL PRETTY HIGH-RANKED,

ohh

droooop

IT'S ONLY NATURAL. THIS IS WHERE THEIR TARGET IS.

AND, SINCE THEY MADE IT THIS FAR....

AND THEN...

ONCE BOTH SIDES ARE WEAKENED ENOUGH...

YOWCH!!!

...

WE'VE GOT SOME OPPONENTS COMING IN THAT THE GLASSES BRIGADE JUST DOESN'T COMPARE TO.

BE CAREFUL!

glint

Momoka-san!!

I'm sorry!! They already got me!!

surge

TOBOOOOOR
BWACK
Hi-yahh!
!
B-
GREH...
Ooh hwoo
Here we go!
BOSS!!!
Mm?
WE'RE NOT ENOUGH TO HOLD THIS BACK. THE GRADUATE'S GOING TO...
FIFTEEN MORE COMING IN!

EVERYONE BUT THE WIMPS WITH GLASSES IS *MY* JOB.

KA-

SCHING

DON'T GET COCKY, NOW!

Myow!

Em

braaaace...

boosh

COME, ENFOLD ME IN YOUR WARM AND LOVING

MAXIMUM TEMPTATION OVERDRIVE!!!

COOL!! AWE-SOME!! SUPER DUPER FLY!!!

BOUND

BOUND

BOUND

MASTER!!!

あぁん

YAHHHH

No no, this's nothing, I got plenny left...
MMMMM
I thought you were like the Energizer Bunny of stupidity
WELL, DON'T SWEAT IT. JUST SIT AND REST A WHILE.
WHAT'S THIS?
RUN OUT OF STAMINA?
WE'RE BACK TO THE REGULAR PROGRAM NOW.
ANYONE WHO'S AFTER THE GRADUATE'S STAR BETTER BE READY FOR A WHITESHIRT AMBUSH.

OUR NUMBERS MAY BE THE SAME, BUT Y'KNOW, A BUNCH OF Cs AND Ds IS ONE THING, AND A PACK OF US A-RANKERS IS ANOTHER THING ALTOGETHER.

MIKADO AKIRA!

JUST AS ARROGANT AS EVER.

TO ME, EVERYBODY BUT THE VERY TOP LOOKS JUST ABOUT THE SAME.

I JUST WONDER ABOUT THAT.

BECAUSE YOU PEOPLE ARE FROM ANOTHER PLANET.

.....

ANNIHILATED

Pitch Black

You're too cruel!

SO WHY DO YOU TREAT THE A-TEAM AND THE A-RANKERS SO DIFFERENTLY!?

THAT'S RIGHT, AKIRA-SAMA! WE'RE THE SAME!!

?

THE GUERRILLA!

OY, YOU!

GUER RILLA

RIGHT, RIGHT, YOU.

Ooh

WHOOSH

GIMME JUST A LITTLE TIME, HERE.

THIS LOT'S GETTING IN THE WAY OF OUR DUEL, RIGHT?

IN THAT CASE, I SHALL ASSIST YOU...!

N-

NO OBJECTIONS... HOWEVER...

AS WILL WE

WE WILL TOO!

NO NEED FOR THAT.

OR RATHER, PLEASE DON'T.

FOR EACH AND EVERY PERSON THAT MIGHT GET INTO MY RANGE...

TRYING TO PICK OUT FRIEND FROM FOE

Eugh!
IT'S A BIT TOO HARD.
EH!
EVEN FOR ME,
BA-
BA-
BA-
BA-
BA-
BAH

RATATATATATA

WHADDYA SAY WE END THIS QUICK?!!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR THAT STAR UNLESS YOU GO THROUGH ME FIRST!

NOW THEN...

THAT LEAVES ABOUT HALF OF YOU TO GO?

RGH

WELL, GUESS THERE ARE A FEW OTHERS STILL CLINGING TO A SLEEVE OR TWO.

OHH...

THAT MIKADO... SHE'S IMPROVED HER SKILL CONSIDERABLY, EVEN SINCE LAST WE MET.

BOSS...!! DON'T GIVE UP BEFORE IT EVEN STARTS!!!

SHOCK

Frankly I'm about ready to wet myself in terror

WHEN I THINK OF FACING HER IN OUR APPOINTED DUEL, ONLY TWO WORDS COME TO MIND: "TOTAL DEFEAT."

MY DESIRE IS NOT TO FACE AN OPPONENT I *CAN* BEAT...

MY RESOLVE HAS NOT WAVERED.

DO NOT FRET.

.....

.....

.....

BEIN' SO FREE AND ALL.

Muh?

IN WHAT WAY?

YOU SURE HAVE IT NICE, BOSS...

Ha ha ha... I see.

NO DOUBT, THE LIFE OF THE LONE FIGHTER IS FREE INDEED.

BUT TO FACE AN OPPONENT I *WANT* TO BEAT.

THERE ARE SOME VICTORIES ONE CAN ONLY SEE THROUGH THE LENS OF DEFEAT.

THERE ARE TIMES I WISH I COULD BE LIKE ALL OF YOU.

BUT THOUGH I'VE NEVER LOST FAITH IN THE PATH I'VE CHOSEN,

?

WHAT D'YOU MEAN?

AHH, WELL...

IN OTHER WORDS...

HAVING SOMEONE TO SHARE ALL THESE MOMENTS WITH...
AGh ...!
...!
We didn't have to share this one!!
Nuh! The fish burg.ar!
—!!!

Persecutors of the fish, are you?
I'll exter-minate you all.
?
?
?
?
?
?
Seems like this might take a little longer than I hoped.
I don't understand what she's saying, but
for real...?
Bleachers
.....
By now, we've lost any sort of connection to what's going on.
been demoted to spectators, have we...?

SKREEK...

CREAK

CREAK

SNAP

CREAK

CREAK

GROAN...

...MM?

...!

!!

EVEN IF I LAND A LUCKY HIT, YOU IMMEDIATELY GET IT RIGHT BACK.

Pant...

Pant

Pant...

vooooosh...

YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING.

SKIP SKIP SKIP SKIP SKIP

ALL THAT ASIDE, THOUGH...

Wheeze

VERY FLATTERED TO HEAR YOU SAY SO.

NO, *AROUND* US.

WITH ME?

EH...!?

GA-N

ISN'T SOMETHING PRETTY WEIRD HERE?

WHOOO

YES, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

SO, WE'D BETTER HURRY UP AND SETTLE THIS FIGHT.

PEH...!

FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT!!!

...GH!
NOW THEN, LIKE YOU SAID...
WITH YOUR TYPE, ONCE YOU GET IN CLOSE, IT'S ALL OVER.
YAHHH!!
AND END THIS!!!
LET'S HURRY UP

I JUST ACTED OUT OF HABIT.

Hoo...

YU...

AM I INTRUDING, SENPAI?

?

THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO RIGHT NOW ON MY OWN.

NO, THANK YOU, YUKARI.

AH HA HA...!

PBH...

HEH...

Heh heh heh heh heh

BUT WITH MY SHINYUU AT MY SIDE, I'M FINALLY WHOLE AGAIN.

JUST TO HAVE LEARNED THAT, IS MORE THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR.

Eh

I SAID SOMETHING FUNNY...?

SO, I GOTTA DEAL WITH TWO OF YOU NOW...

FINE BY ME. GO AHEAD, COME ALL AT ONCE.

TRYING TO MAKE ME PAY FOR TAKING THIS TOO LIGHTLY, HUH?

HUMPH...

AGHH!!

IN THE SPIRIT OF CHIVALRY AND

you go on ahead, YUKARI!

NO, I'VE GOT MY SECOND WIND NOW!! LET'S CONTINUE, ONE-AGAINST-ONE!!

FAIR AND EVEN. TO THE VERY END!

CUT IT OUT! I'M SERIOUSLY SUFFOCATING OVER HERE!!!

STOP

snap

BADAL CHARAGHT AGHAR

Skr...eak

Grind...

...!!

CREAK

CREEAK

HEY, NOW...

THIS MIGHT BE SERIOUSLY...

CREAK CREAK CREAK

CLANG

!!!

THIS IS SERIOUSLY BAD!!!

FIGHT'S OFFICIALLY POSTPONED.

...

BA BA BA BA AD ALG H

FLIP

I-

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!!

WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO?

MIDDLE SCHOOL SECTION FIRST YEAR, KIJIMIYA OTOHA.

WAIT— *PRESI-DENT!!?*

SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE

AHHH...

N-

N-

NOT GOOD...!

SHIVER

SHIVER

Her (K.O.'d)

THAT'S WHAT MADE ME SNAP!!

YOU SEE WHAT SHE DID TO MICHI...

...EVERYTHING IS ALL *HER* FAULT!!

MICHI

CREEAK

CREAK

CREAK

IF I'M UNABLE TO RESTRAIN MY EMOTIONS...

WITH FEELINGS THAT ARE TOO STRONG, THE SPIRITS BEGIN TO REACT...

O-

ONCE I GET LIKE THIS, I CAN'T CONTROL IT ANYMORE...

THEN, HURRY UP AND CALM YOUR ANGER.
... ...
IF IT WERE THAT SIMPLE, I WOULDN'T BE SO DESPERATE HERE!!!
IN A PLACE LIKE THIS... FIRST THE GROUND MIGHT BECOME UNSTABLE...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN... WELL...
tumble
DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE MOUNTAIN MIGHT START TO COLLAPSE...
...SPEAKING CONCRETELY, PRECISELY WHAT SORT OF THINGS MIGHT OCCUR?
EH...
I'M TELLING YOU, THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE...!!!
WILL YOU FEEL BETTER IF YOU TREAD ON HER WITH THE HORSE A FEW TIMES?
YOUR ANGER TOWARDS SHIDOU-SAN ISN'T SOMETHING SO SHALLOW, YOU'RE SAYING.
Sure enough...!
.....

I'm wondering if perhaps something has happened with Kijimuya-san...
How to explain it exactly...
Ah... Well...
WHAT'S UP, WANKO? SOMETHIN' BEEN BUGGING YOU?

What'd that goddamn bird do now!!?

WOW, REALLY? The Earth's

Eh!?

That's most likely the sound of the Earths surface moving beneath us..

YEAH, ACTUALLY, THERE IS KINDA A WEIRD NOISE, BUT...

AHH...

?

SKR...

KIJI?

WHAT'S UP WITH HER?

EEEK

EEEK

Can you hear that sound?

WHY IS SHE THE ONLY ONE TREATING THIS EVENT LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF *HARMAGEDON*...

Ah Hold it together, Homoka-san!

It might be safest to get off the mountain quickly..

As shes fairly far away, I dont think we'll see a very profound effect here, but,

However... there's also a slight unbalance to them.

Kijimiya-san's powers have always been unusually strong.

MAYBE IF WE COULD GET 'EM TO HALT THE FIGHT,

OR SOMETHIN'...

ANYHOW, YOU SAY WE SHOULD GET OUT, BUT... WE CAN'T JUST ABANDON *HER*.

Under certain circumstances, there's a possibility that they might run wild..

What is her deal!!?

Jeee-sus!

This is my first time fighting against her myself, but...

God damn, she's a handful...!

And having to deal with these freaking A-Rankers at the same time...

this ain't so easy!

VWUSH

Frankly ...

UWOH!

ABSO-LUTELY NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

Heh

IF YOU REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, CALL ON ME ANY TIME!!

FIDGET

NOT SO EASY, IS IT, MIKADO AKIRA? GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE FISH BURGLAR!

FIDGET

FIDGET

HM?

MASTER'S THE SAME WAY.

THAT'S REALLY WEIRD...

.....

Hoh?

IS IT 'CAUSE SHE'S IN SUCH A TOUGH FIGHT?

HER MOVEMENTS AND STUFF...

THEY'RE JUST KINDA STIFF SOMEHOW.

I WAS MOVING KINDA STIFF TOO... THAT'S WHY I GOT SO TIRED?

BWAK BWAK BWAK BWAK BWAK

What do you think I am??

FREAKING ACHILLES !?!?

CHRIST AL-MIGHTY!

I'm seriously desperate here!

!!

she got behind me

SHIT!

ohhh!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A WHITESHIRT, HUH!

CAN'T EVEN TIDY UP A LITTLE MESS LIKE THIS YOURSELF?

SHAD-DUP.

I'M THE TYPE THAT LIKES TO BE METICULOUS WHEN I CLEAN.

I SAID I DON'T NEED HELP...

WAIT... WHO'S THIS "MOMMY" NOW, EXACTLY?

Phew ..

YES, YES, OF COURSE.

WELL, MOMMY'S HERE NOW, SO LET'S DO A NICE JOB STRAIGHTENING UP TOGETHER!

du

Oh...?

streak

Why?

JUST NOW...

SHE RELAXED.

HRM?

AND ANYWAY, WHERE THE HELL'D THAT SPEAR COME FROM?

I BORROWED IT FROM A GIRL WHO WAS ALREADY ELIMINATED

She's hanging on to my sword for me in the meantime

RIGHT THEN!

GOOD LUCK, AKIRA!!

yeah, yeah

MASTER.

ALL OF A SUDDEN, HER WHOLE BODY JUST RELAXED.

Ah...

I GET IT...

oh yes, by the way, I can't score any valid hits with this thing, so,

I'm not here to support

so in the end, all the real work's still left to me

Because they're shinyuus.

AND THE ONE WHO STANDS BEHIND ME...

IS AYANA.

...OR WAS.

It's only when she's got her shinyuu standing behind her,

that she can relax like that.

It's not something Boss Yagyuu or Moka-chan or any of the others can do.

RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

YES,

BEHIND YOU.

MUDOU-SAN.

KUROGANE... SHE'S STANDING RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

???

Nyaaaww!

bu88

DUMBASS KURO.

LONG TIME NO SEE,

in the sense that the entire lower half of my body is paralyzed.

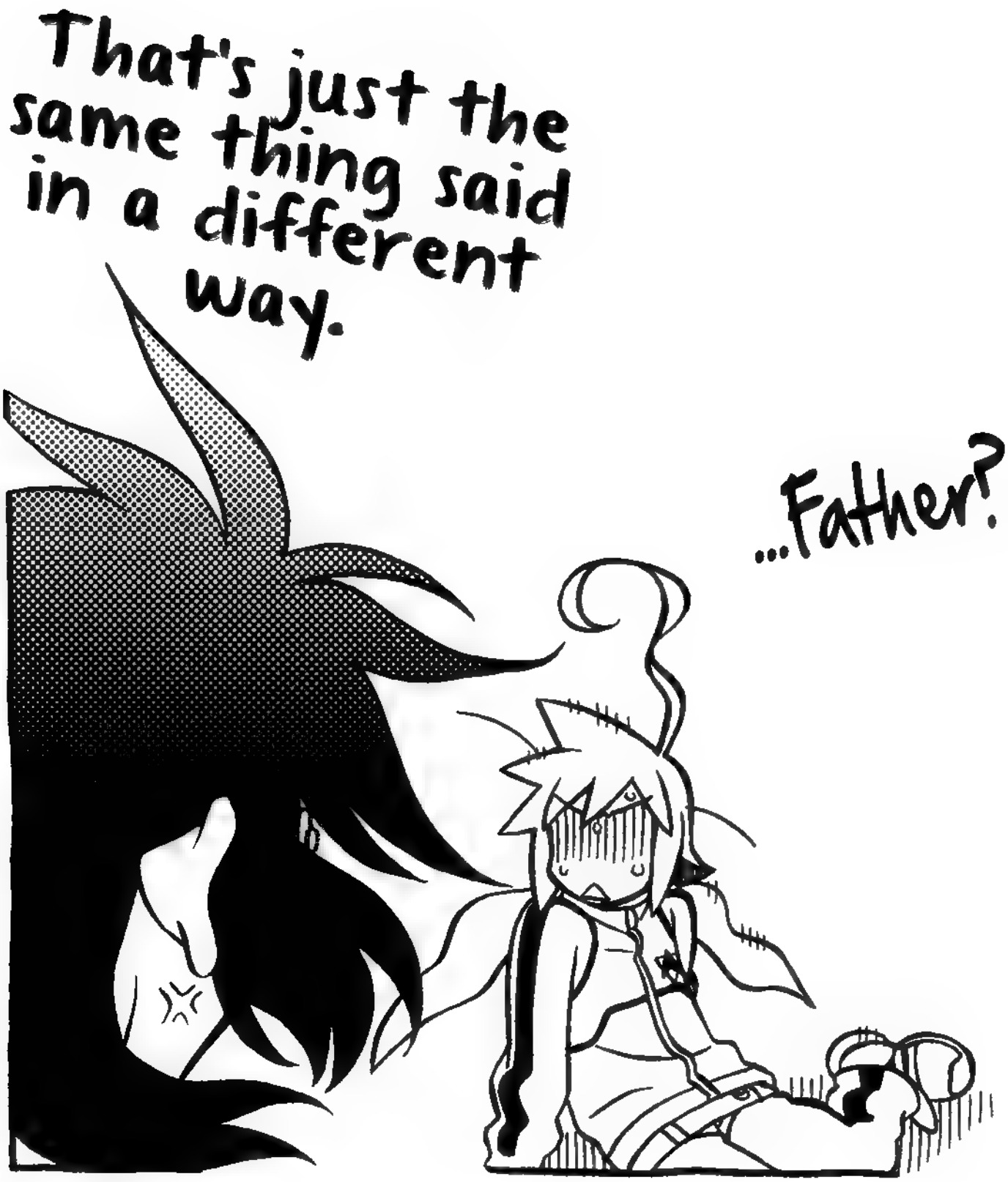
Fo

DADDY

D-

Who're you calling "DADDY"?

I feel more relaxed already,


That's just the same thing said in a different way.
...Father?

Trivia

Title

Bokosuka Wars was a 1983 strategy game for computer and Nintendo. Here it is combined with *baka* ("idiot"), the word which appears in some form in every chapter title of the series.

Page 42

My legs are really laughing: In Japanese, the shaky, unsteady sensation of walking on fatigued legs that seem ready to give way is described as "one's knees laughing."

Page 50

Guerrilla: Akira actually calls Makoto a *nobushi*.
Nobushi were mountain-dwelling warriors or bandits, who were sometimes employed as unofficial soldiers in military campaigns.

Page 67

Goddamn bird: The *Kiji* in Kijimiya Otoha means "pheasant."
Likewise, the *Momo* in Kibi Momoka means "peach," the *Inu* in Inugami Isuzu means "dog," and the *Sa* in Sagara Michi means "monkey" (pronunciation changed; normally *saru*). This mirrors the four travelers in the folk tale *Momotarou*: a dog, a monkey, a pheasant, and the peach boy, Momotarou. Hence this quartet is sometimes informally called the "Momotarou Group."

Additionally, Momoka's surname, Kibi, is a reference to the millet dumplings, or *kibi-dango*, given by Momotarou to his three companions. Like Momoka herself, the Momotarou story originated in Okayama. It serves as a symbol of the prefecture; *kibi-dango* remain among its most popular souvenirs.

Harmagedon (*Genma Taisen*) is a 1983 anime film portraying a cosmic-scale war fought using psychic powers.

Y-
Jun?

#69
Hold Close the Shivering Idiot
SNAG
IPES!!
めしめし
めしめし
Hold Close

I guess the tracksuit makes you look thinner ?
I can't really tell from the video feed
Not just the branch, but the entire tree...?
Jun, what are you weighing in at these days...?
HOW RUDE!! IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M GETTING FAT!
THIS PLACE I'M IN IS ALL WEIRD!!!
YEAH, SORRY, I'M FINE.
THE TREE I WAS HANGING FROM JUST COLLAPSED ALL OF A SUDDEN.
Are you all right, Jun? There was some awful noise just then...
What in the...
Phew...

Mmm
WELL, IT'S LIKE... THE GROUND'S ALL UNSTEADY, OR SOMETHING...
I WONDER IF WE MIGHT HAVE A SERIOUSLY HAIRY SITUATION UP HERE SOON...
MYAOW
"Weird"?
Weird how, exactly?

BUT IT'S SO MUCH FUN, YOU KNOW!
Boy, I threw them good though!
Yes ma'am!
Ouch
Hurry up and get where you need to be!
...So this is no time to be messing around trying out your new technique, is it?
Training Partners

#69

Hold Close the Shivering Idiot

With the eyes of a murderer.

FOOOO

OOM

AWA WA-

AWA YA-

AWA...

A...

AYA-

—!!!

OHH...

AGHHH!!

Ayana, what are you doing!?

Boss Yagyuu is our ally...!

BWSSSH

Dear me

I still can't move my legs

FSSHUUU

"ALLY"?

FAR FROM IT.

FOR *YOU*, SHE MAY BE AN ALLY.

BUT TO ME, SHE'S JUST A TARGET.

SO I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS STAR RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

NO WAY...

AYANA...

UNLESS, THAT IS...

YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP ME.

...

!
Glasses...!
How long has she been here .?
What the heck are they doing over there?
Don't tell Me...
E
YAGH!
AKIRA!!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

...

As long as you're not trying to fucking cut me in half, yeah!! I am!!

THUD

OUT!!!

WATCH THE HELL—

AND ALSO...

WHOOPS

wheeze

wheeze

Well,

YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR SURROUND-INGS.

SEEMS LIKE YOU WEREN'T EITHER.

SINCE YOU HAD TIME TO BE WATCHING ME FROM AFAR.

ARE YOU TRYING TO SUPPORT ME, OR NOT...?

YOU KNOW, YOU...

Mew!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE MIDGET WEIRDO'S PARTNER IS HERE, BUT...
SHE'S ACTING KINDA STRANGE.
YOU DON'T THINK SHE COULD BE AFTER THE GRADUATE'S STAR?
...WELL, THAT /S EVERY STUDENT'S OBJECTIVE HERE.
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
IF SHE WERE JUST AFTER THE STAR, SHE WOULD'VE ATTACKED ALREADY.
KUROGANE-SAN'S ON THE GRADUATE'S SIDE, SO SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON WITH THAT, RIGHT?
NO- BUT- LIKE, THAT'S A PROBLEM, ISN'T IT?
IF HER STAR GOES DOWN WHILE WE'RE BUSY FIGHTING OVER HERE.
DON'T WORRY. IT WON'T.
HUH!?
AS YOU KNOW, I LIKE TO WATCH OVER THINGS FROM AFAR.
A VERY CALM AND MEASURED ASSESSMENT...
Damn it I at least knew that much!
YEAH ...

Eugh..

SINCE IT SEEMS YOUR CUTE KOUHAI HAS THINGS TO WORK OUT TOO...

WELL, ANY-WAY...

NOTHING "CUTE" ABOUT HER.

WE'D BETTER BE OVER HERE MAKING SURE...

NOBODY CAN GET IN HER WAY!!

...Don't make it seem like I'm doing this for her!!!

ガキ!!

B-

BOSS?

lift

I'M THROWING UP MY HANDS!!!

BWUH!

FORGIVE ME, KURO-GANE-DONO!!

FRET

FRET

Boss, what's wrong!!?

B-
B-
B-

'Throwing up your hands'...

FRET

FRET

WITH MY ABILITY, I COULD NEVER WIN AGAINST HER.

I KNOW I AM NO MATCH FOR THIS OPPONENT.

I CANNOT MOVE AN INCH BEFORE SUCH A TERRIFYING PRESENCE! I CAN MERELY COWER IN DREAD!!

.....
.....
.....

ONE SUCH AS THIS, WIELDING SO DEMONIC A POWER IN HER BLADE...

NO...! INDEED, A GENUINE DEMON, IN THE FLESH...!

HOWEVER... MY STRENGTH IS INSUFFICIENT TO THE TASK.

AS YOU SAY,

I MUST NOT YIELD THIS STAR TO ANYONE.

THERE-FORE...

YOU CAN'T JUST GIVE UP NOW, BOSS! WE'VE COME SO FAR!

WAIT! NO NO NO NO NO!

W-

Neener neener!

Get yer ass up!!

Come on now, oyyyy!

Hweeo!! Ha ha!!

YES...

YOU HAVE TO KEEP PROTECTING THAT STAR!

I see!! You got it, Boss!!!
I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO PROTECT THIS STAR FOR ME!!
KURO-GANE-DONO!
Eh?
HENH?
Pass
THIS DEMON WILL...?
IF YOU DO NOT, THIS DEMON WILL...
COME, KUROGANE-DONO! STRIKE THIS DEMON DOWN, IN MY STEAD!!
WAIT—
NO, I CAN'T DO THAT!! BOSSSSS!!
Eeeeek
THAT'S RIGHT. BEFORE YOUR WATCHING EYES, I WILL SNATCH THIS STAR AWAY.
Um...
Y-
YEAH.
AND THEN...

I'LL BECOME THE EVENT WINNER,

AND BLOW THE ENTIRE CASH PRIZE ON USED NES CARTRIDGES!!

NOT SOME RARE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS EITHER!! PURE BARGAIN-BIN ALL THE WAY!!!

Nothing but the cheapest, most worthless stuff you can think of!!

WHAT!?

going too far

that's

that is pretty messed up

Momoka-san, what precisely is happening right...

...

SHE'S MAKING UP A REASON TO FIGHT KUROGANE, RIGHT?

MAN ARE THEY BEIN' ROUNDABOUT ABOUT IT...

SO, COME AT ME, KUROGANE HAYATE.

IF YOU DON'T, YOUR FRIEND'S YEARS AND YEARS OF HARD WORK WILL ALL TURN INTO NINTENDO GAMES.

I JUST DON'T GET IT...

.....
.....

FSSSHUUUUU

IT'S LIKE, YOU KNOW...

NAGI'S HERE AND ALL NOW.

THINGS ARE FINE LIKE THIS.

IF YOU COULD JUST SEE ME OFF WITH A SMILE...

AND I MEAN, I'D STILL STOP BY TO PLAY EVERY NOW AND THEN...

...

LET'S RUMBLE!!!

WE'LL DO THIS BREAK-UP WITH A BANG!!

WE'LL DO IT WITH AN ATOMIC GODDAMN EXPLOSION!!!

FINE!! GEEZ!!

I GET IT ALREADY!!

IF YA WANNA RUMBLE SO BADLY,

GOOD GRIEF.
AS WE BECOME MORE AND MORE USELESS...
FINALLY GET ROUND TO STARTING, DID THEY?
HEY! YOU FOUR THERE!
KUROGANE-DONO'S VISITOR HAS ARRIVED, HAS SHE NOT?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THERE IS NO LONGER ANY REASON TO PROTECT ME.
WHY NOT HAVE A GO AT FULFILLING YOUR OWN WISHES?

UWHA HA HA HA! COME ONE, COME ALL!! CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!!

C'MON!! LET'S NAB THAT STAR!!!

Eh- B- But Homoka-san

...THAT'S RIGHT! THIS'S OUR CHANCE!!

KLU

AH

HOP

THEY MUST BE BORED AFTER HAVING TO WAIT SO LONG.

AH HA HA! NO HELPING IT, I GUESS!

AAH!!

OR WAIT... GUESS THAT WAS THEIR SIDE TO BEGIN WITH?

GOD DAMN IT! THE UNDERLINGS WENT OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE!

LEAVING THAT ASIDE, AKIRA.

IF NOTHING ELSE, LET'S AT LEAS

SA-

T...!!

GU...

RR
RAHH
!!!

THERE SHE WENT... RIGHT THROUGH ME.

Boy

Nothing but mess ups for me today

Hoo...

I HAD NO CHOICE, MY BODY JUST MOVED ON ITS OWN.

Hah

Hah

SHAD-DUP.

YOU TOO, AKIRA. YOU SHOULD'VE JUST FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME AND GONE TO STOP HER.

Ahhh man, wore myself out completely in one go

Yeah...

Pant

Wheeze

And it's all thanks to your wonderful support.

WE'LL CALL IT A SUCCESS ANYWAY!

WELL, IT DOES LOOK LIKE WE'VE CLEANED IT ALL UP AROUND HERE, SO,

Pant...

Good girl!

"IF NOTHING ELSE,

LET'S AT LEAST TRY TO HOLD BACK THAT DANGEROUS SENPAI."

...

...IS WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY, BUT...

Tremble

Tremble

Tremble

mm?

Skreak

...

Groan...

MICHI...

well

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT... THANK GOODNESS!!!

HUH?

What kind of face is that?

!!

MI...

WHAT IS THIS? AN EARTH-QUAKE?

OWW WOW WOW...

OR DOES MY HEAD JUST FEEL WOBBLY?

My my

WAIT... PRESI-DENT!?

AGh!! A hORSE!!

YOU'VE TAKEN A KNOCK TO THE HEAD, NO?

PLEASE REMAIN THERE, THE NURSES WILL COME ATTEND TO YOU.

JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS BEEN GOING ON...?

rumble

shake

AND THEN ...

THIS... EARTH-QUAKE ...?

shake

HOW DID SHE END UP LIKE THAT...?

ERM... SO...

THE WHITE-SHIRT WHO'S A LITTLE... WAS HERE...

But...

THAT IS RATHER A LONG STORY, BUT,

WELL, WHAT WITH ONE THING AND ANOTHER...

YOUR SHINYUU IS TRYING TO SMASH THIS MOUNTAIN INTO RUBBLE.

WhAT !!?

...
...

Sigh

IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT...

YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS, HAVE YOU?

WELL... HEH HEH...

SO? HOW ABOUT NOW?

IS YOUR MIND A LITTLE MORE AT EASE, KIJIMIYA-SAN?

YES, A BIT...

BUT, I STILL CAN'T REIN THE SPIRITS IN...

I SEE.

IN THAT CASE, NO CHOICE, I SUPPOSE. I'LL HAVE TO—

I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T RESTRAIN THE SPIRITS RIGHT NOW!
HOLD— YOU CAN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ME!!
WH...
MICHI!?
stamp
stamp
stamp
SO-
Pat
THERE, THERE!
CALM DOWN, CALLLM DOWN.
IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR BEING WEAK.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO GET MAD ABOUT.
H...

That calmed her down splendidly.
True to form.
Just as there's nothing for a band of furry friends like Hata Masanori.
Sure enough, there's nothing for a shinyuu like her shinyuu.
The spirit's like it if you scratch them right here
O-
OK...
Theeere there there
Theeeere there there
IT STILL HURTS A LITTLE WHERE I GOT HIT, BUT I'LL BE FINE.
SO HURRY UP AND STOP WITH THE WEIRD STUFF.
"WEIRD STUFF"?!
ZUGUUU

it seems it's already too late to stop this thing...
Be that as it may...
!
STAGGER

The cataract of anger, once burst from its source,
will rage until it is dry, oppose it as we will.

GI-
YAhhh!!!

SUP

!

ZU-
RYAHH!!!

GOT YOU NOW!!

EUGH!

LIKE HELL!!!

CAN YOU STOP TAKING THIS SO LIGHTLY?

AND SPEAK-ING OF WHICH...

IT'S NOT DIRTY! THIS IS A SERIOUS FIGHT!!!

What do you think you're doing, kicking me like that...

Wh- What are you...

Heugh...

Ough...

How dirty...

gush gush

peuuuuuu

YOU'RE NOT REALLY BEING SERIOUS AT ALL.

YOU'RE JUST PRE-TENDING TO BE.

JUST PLAYING ALONG AND HOPING I EVENTUALLY CALM DOWN, RIGHT?

Heh..?

WELL, ISN'T THAT JUST SO GREAT!

WE CAN HAVE OUR FAKE FIGHT,

YOU CAN GET OUT OF THIS WITHOUT REALLY SETTLING ANYTHING,

AND YOU CAN RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET THINKING HOW HAPPY YOU MADE EVERYBODY.

EVERY-THING WRAPPED UP ALL NICE AND NEAT.

SNAP

NRR...

Grrrrrr

MAD?

OHH? SO I SEEM ANGRY TO YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SO MAD ABOUT IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!

WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE!!

NAGI'S HERE!!

...

IT'S OK LIKE THIS, RIGHT!?!?

YOU BET YOU DO!!!

NAGI CAN BE NAGI NOW!!

I WAS NAGI FOR A WHILE, BUT,

NOT MOKA-CHAN, OR INU-CHAN, OR AO-CHAN...

NOTHING'S CHANGED AT ALL!

NOBODY'S BEING PUT OUT!

GUOWH

OR JUN-JUN OR SIGMA OR KIJICCHAN OR MICCHII OR

HURRY UP AND STAND.

Cough cough cough... hack

Uorgh..

WHETHER ANYONE'S BEING PUT OUT...

WHETHER ANYTHING'S CHANGED OR NOT...

...

IT REVOLTS ME, THAT'S ALL.

grit

LIKE I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ALL THAT.

FROM YOUR BRAIN.

THIS ISN'T AN ORDINARY CASE OF IDIOCY. YOU'RE *MISSING* SOMETHING.

I'M REALLY AND TRULY DISGUSTED AT YOU.

AND THE "YOU" THAT'S INSIDE OF YOU, TOO — THEY'RE ALL FREAKING MISSING SOMETHING UPSTAIRS!

THE "YOU" THAT'S INSIDE OF MOMOSUKE AND THE REST... AND THE ONE INSIDE OF ME...

.....
.....
.....

ARGHH, GEEZ!!! SURE!! THAT'S FINE TOO!!

Norahh!

TUMBLE

BASICALLY YOU'RE SAYING I'M STUPID ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT ME, hUh!?!?

EVERY-ONE ELSE...

ME AND...

?

MISSING ...?

TUMBLE

.....
.....
.....

I believe that's correct, yes!

Ooh ha ha ha ha ha

WE'RE CHASING AFTER THE GRADUATE, AIN'T THAT RIGHT?

RIGHT NOW,

Y-

Yes, what is it, Momoka-san?

PANT

PANT

WANKO.

HEY, WANKO.

DADA DA DA DADA DA DADA DA DA

OUEGH!!

Well, we are rival competitors, after all!

SHE'S DEFINITELY LOOKING TO WIPE US OUT FIRST!!!

IT'S US!!

I suppose her target must be the graduate as well!

Yes...

THAT TERRIFYING FELLA BACK BEHIND US... WHAT'S *SHE* AFTER!?!?

RIGHT, SO THEN...

YOOOO!! SENPAIS!!!

I'M SORRY, MOMOKA-CHAN! PLEASE ACT AS A DECOY FOR US!

Leave this to us!

THAT'S RIGHT, RIVAL COMPETI-TORS.

OUR COOPERA-TION IS AT AN END, AS WELL.

YOU TRAITORS !!!!

...?
.....
.....
...!
RUMMMMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
MURMUR
.....
PARDON ME, UMPIRE!
IS YOUR LEADER AROUND?
Hm?
Yes, right over here
QUAK
Come to think of it,
Kijimiya-san's aura seems to have disappeared...
QUIVER
QUAKE
But... in place of that...
QUAK
WHAT IS IT...?
I'm not sure...

I'LL SEND OUT AN ADVISORY BULLETIN, AND MAKE PREPARATIONS TO ACTIVATE THE DISASTER PREVENTION SYSTEM.

THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENTLY IN THE FIELD AS WELL.

What's more.

WELL, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

She's got a horse and all

FWISH

PLEASE RUN A CHECK-UP ON THE BATTLE-GROUND.

LET ME KNOW IF ANYTHING ABNORMAL IS REPORTED.

MIYA-MOTO-SAN!

I JUST HEARD FROM SOMEBODY NOW.

SEEMS PRETTY BAD UP THERE... FISSURES IN THE GROUND, TREES FALLING OVER...

JUST AS I FEARED, THEN.

OUR PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE STUDENTS.

I'D LIKE TO ASK THAT YOUR UMPIRES BEGIN CONDUCTING STUDENTS TO SAFETY, AS BECOMES NECESSARY.

...ARE WE CALLING IT OFF?

SO LET US BE METICULOUS AND THOROUGH IN THE MEASURES WE TAKE.

NO, WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE.

UNTIL WE HEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT HERSELF.

Uh?

THAT THE PATHS OF THE DUELLING STARS

MEET NOTHING TO OB-STRUCT THEM.

LAME-

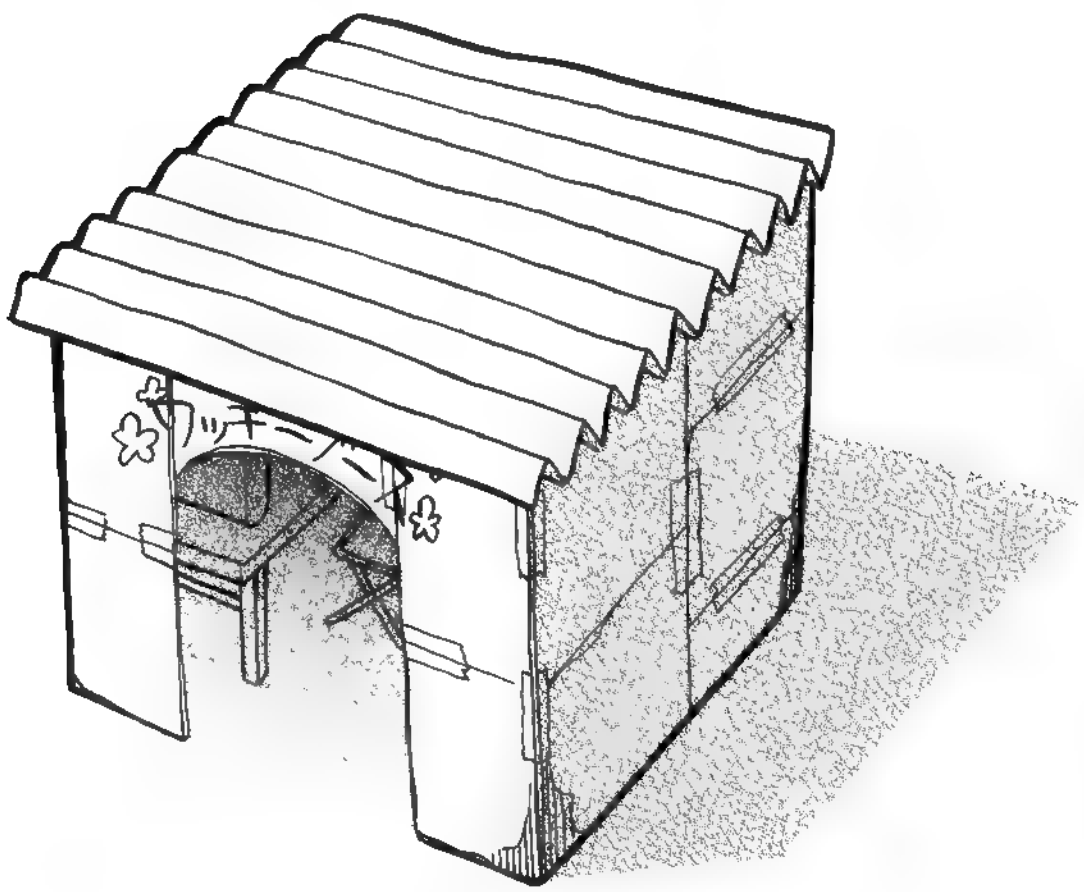
SAY

Oh.

JUST LISTEN TO THIS IDIOT, TRYING TO ACT COOL AGAIN...

...

NOT SO CRAMPED,
IN A CRAMPED KIND OF WAY.
BUT JUST A LITTLE CRAMPED.
THE WAKKII BOOTH.



Trivia

Title
Reference to a song from the Japanese rock group Glay, entitled "Laotour: Hold Close the Shivering Fist."

Page 100
Hata Masanori is a writer and zoologist. He presently resides in Hokkaido, on a massive private animal preserve called the Mutsugorou Animal Kingdom ("Mutsugurou" being his pen name). He directed the 1986 film *Kitty Story*, about a cat and its canine comrade, released overseas as *The Adventures of Milo and Otis*.

MIDDLE SCHOOL, YEAR 3, CLASS G

Swordbearer Family Survey

KUGA JUN

Comment: Beat her harder.

MIDDLE SCHOOL, YEAR 3, CLASS B

Swordbearer Family Survey

SHIZUMA YUUHO

Comment: The sort of dad that doesn't wear socks.

#70

Kill All the Idiots

All swordbearers still in the field, please follow all instructions given over the PA system or through your terminals.

Warning: The disaster prevention system is now operational.

If you judge your immediate situation to be dangerous, proceed quickly down the mountainside.

The graduate farewell party will continue.

NOT GONNA STOP IT...?

Han...

SPARTAN AS EVER, HUH TENCHI.

?

Hrm?

SO... MORE OR LESS THEY'RE SAYING, IF IT GETS HAIRY, RUN AWAY?
BASICALLY, LEAVING US TO OUR OWN DEVICES.
...
ALSO, AS FOR RUNNING AWAY...
THINK I'VE ALREADY BEEN PRETTY MUCH SWALLOWED UP HERE...
what am I supposed to do about this?

#70

Kill All the Idiots

MT. HIFUMI, BLOCK NB-5: LARGE SCALE DISINTEGRATION CONFIRMED.
SEALING NB-5. DISTRIBUTING FROM NC-6 TO NC-7.
ゴゴゴゴ
O-
OH?
ポワーン
OHH...
IT STOPPED?

ALL SYSTEM FUNCTIONS NORMAL.
WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THIS IS THE DISASTER CONTROL APPARATUS WHICH REPRESENTS THE CULMINATION OF THE AMACHI GROUP'S ENGINEERING CRAFT AND INGENUITY:
DEFENSE & RECOVERY INTERNAL FORCE
"DRIF" FOR SHORT!!!
THERE YOU GO GIVING THINGS NAMES ON YOUR OWN AGAIN...
She's going to get mad at you...
BARRIERS BURIED AROUND THE MOUNTAIN AUTOMATICALLY SENSE ANY MAJOR BREAK-UP IN THE ROCK AND ACT TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE.
IT'S TRUE PERFECTION.
forever Tenchi
My beautiful Hitsugi-sama!
Sieg Highness
—But in this case, we've got students scattered all over the mountain-side,
so we gotta do each and every one by hand!!
Don't just stand around looking like a dope! Help me out here!!!
AGH! YES, OF COURSE!!
I'll grab a computer!
WHAM

STILL GOTTA CLEAR THINGS UP WITH *HER*.
WELL, I CAN AT LEAST BE THANKFUL THEY DIDN'T STOP IT.
SOME SCHOOL THEY GOT HERE, REALLY.
EVEN GOT A GADGET LIKE THIS PREPARED.
Huh...!
WHERE EXACTLY HAVE THOSE TWO GOTTEN TO?
I have even less idea where I
Thanks to riding that landslide
...
...
What is this?
?
SO...
MYAOW!

That's not what the person running away says!!!
Ooh...
BRING IT ON!!!
THERE THEY ARE.
.....
.....
.....
What does the word "tactics" mean in your brain!?
This is tactics! Tactics !!!
I'm not running away!!

THIS TENCHI ACADEMY...

IS SURPASSING MY EXPECTATIONS!

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW A FACE LIKE THAT ON HER...

OR WAIT...

NOT SURE I'VE *EVER* SEEN IT.

...

Whoo

...

DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE ME,

DID THEY?

AH,

SHOOT, I BETTER GET AFTER THEM.

Nr hhh hhh!

Hold up, hold up!

GONNA LOSE 'EM AGAIN.

creak creak creak

.....
.....
.....

RRRR

...

UMBLE

PIT

...

Come to think of it

She's st...

RUMBLE

clatter

Wobble

Wobble

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

...

She would appear to be considering something...

S...

QUIVER

QUAKE

SO THEN...

WHATTA WE DO? PULL BACK? CHARGE 'ER?

QUAKE

QUAKE

OHHH !!?

Kuga-san!?

hll-

YAh!!!

All you did was knock her down.

What about that was "flawless"...

You're supposed to use the opponent's momentum against her!

DID YOU SEE IT, YUUHO?: PERFECT JUN.

Ah, you DID see?

Heh hehm!!

FLAW-LESS.

YUUHO'S THROWING TECHNIQUE, SUCCESSFULLY ASSIMILATED.

Mirkgnao

Fish

Meat

WA-BOOM

I brought you some meat

!!

GASP!

...!

AH!!

HOP

Here you go, Ensuu

JUST WHAT IS THAT PERSON AFTER HERE...?

FBWOOSH

SHE RAN AWAY...

Huh?

Quit your god-damned flitting around, you rotten little runt!!!

Well, whatever.

MOVING ON,

WHAT ARE AYANA AND HAYATE-CHAN UP TO?

THE MAP SCREEN SHOWED THEM MEETING UP,

Tap tapping

or so Yuuho informed me

AHH,

IF IT'S THOSE TWO YOU WANT...

Yes

MY LITTLENESS IS ENDEARING! I'M ENDEAR-INGLY LITTLE!! NOT LIKE YOU, WEIRD-LOOKING GLASSES!!

...

OH...

What'd you say!?!?

Don't look down on underrims!!

Neener neener

They give you a nice wide field of vision!

Four-eyes! Four-eyes! Weird-looking four-eyes!

WELL, BASICALLY, IT'S AS YOU SEE.

ガヤガヤ

たったったった

AH HA HA HA...

I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF DARK, GLOOMY BATTLE I'D FIND THEM LOCKED IN,

BUT I GUESS FOR THOSE TWO... THAT'S THE ONLY WAY IT CAN BE.

EH...

BAH-BYE THEN, MOMOCCHI, INUCCHI!

BETTER GET AFTER THEM. OR THEY'LL BE LOST TO ME.

WHOOPS,

WHIRL

MMM...

WELL, THAT IS PRETTY HARD TO PASS ON...

YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY'N TAKE THE GRADUATE'S STAR??

YES?

...WAIT! KUGA-SAN!

Ergh.

THAT'S NOT A FIGHT YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO SEE TOO OFTEN!

You're getting excited, huh.

Now that ya mention it

BUT YOU KNOW,

REGARD-LESS OF WHICH WAY IT TURNS OUT...

...

WEREN'T WE GOING TO MAKE A LEGEND TOGETHER, THEN GO TO HAWAII?

Pwa-ha!

You're not making any sense

And if I'm going there with you, Yuuho, anyplace is Hawaii.

We threw a Whiteshirt into a river, I'd say that's sufficiently legendary.

If an all-night study session becomes necessary, Momoka-san, I'll stay up with you and help...!!

...

Though I don't wish to be presumptuous

Ah ha ha ha! Follow me!!

I GUESS THAT FINAL-EXAMS EXEMPTION JUST AIN'T HAPPENING!

LET'S GO, KUROGANE CHEER SQUAD!

...AGH, GEEZ! NEVER A MOMENT'S REST, HUH!!

Yankin' me this way and that.

SIGH...

THIS BLOCK HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A DANGEROUS AREA!

DISQUALIFIED COMPETITORS, HURRY UP AND GET OFF THE MOUNTAIN!

file

Sighhhh

AND PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR TERMINALS!

Oh? What's this?

ARE YOU FEELING TIRED, AKIRA?

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT I'M TIRED!

THIS EVENT'S TOTALLY SCREWED! NOW WE'RE *CONDUCTING* THE STUDENTS?

HOW THE HELL IS THIS "INTER-CEPTING" ANYONE!?

Where's your youthful vigor?

Mostly thanks to you!

Meow!

SHE'S PRETTY FAR AWAY BY NOW. IN COMBAT WITH A COUPLE OF STUDENTS.

MM...

beep

WHAT'S SHE UP TO?

WE LOST THE GRADUATE IN ALL THE CHAOS, TOO...

WELL, THERE WAS JUST A SORT OF PROMISE WE HAD...

NO...

But if she's busy with that, it's no big deal..

WHAT IS IT, AKIRA? NOT JUST KUROGANE-SAN, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER TOO?

I DOUBT WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT AGAIN...

YOU'RE QUITE THE GIGOLO, MIKADO-SAN.

MAKING PROMISES HERE AND THERE, PLAYING THE FIELD, SLIPPING OUT OF ARRANGEMENTS...

HUFF HUFF HUFF

...

NOT A WHIT DIFFERENT FROM YOUR REACTION AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. THANK YOU FOR THAT.

HOUYHNHNM

My, how cute!

HORS EEEEE EEE!!?

...WHY DOES EVERYONE IMMEDIATELY SAY MY NAME WITHOUT ANY HESITATION?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FOR THIS THING!?

WAIT! HOLD ON, HITSUGI!

NO...

Festival Playback

WHY, IF IT ISN'T MIKADO-SAN.

MOOO

My, how cute.

BULLL LLLL!?

DECLA-MATION TIME, HUH?

...

Just once in your life could you try listening when someone talks to you?

A PROMISE IS A WEDGE, JOINING YOU TO THE PERSON WITH WHOM YOU MAKE IT.

THOUGH TIME MAY PASS, THAT WEDGE REMAINS THERE ALWAYS.

NO MATTER HOW TRIFLING A MATTER IT MAY BE, DOES NOT GO AWAY.

AN UNFULFILLED PROMISE...

...

A "PROMISE."

ガッ

ガッ

...AND ANYWAY, YOU DON'T MAKE SENSE, AYANA!!

YOU ALWAYS SAID...

HOW ANNOYING I WAS! HOW GROSS I WAS!

CALLED ME DUMB! CALLED ME A MORON! CALLED ME A WORM!

WERE ALWAYS BEATING ON ME!

YOU HATE ME!!!

DON'T YOU!!?

THAT'S RIGHT!!!!

Damage

YOU'RE PESKY, AND NOISY, AND OUT-OF-CONTROL. YOU DON'T HAVE A SHRED OF DELICACY. YOUR HANDS ARE ALWAYS ALL DAMP AND SLIPPERY. YOU'RE ALWAYS HUGGING ON ME WHEN I'M JUST OUT OF THE BATH AND YOU'RE ALL SWEATY. YOU SMELL LIKE POTATO CHIPS. YOU DELETE MY SAVED GAMES. YOU DON'T WEAR SOCKS. YOU DON'T WEAR UNDERPANTS.

BEYOND BEING MERELY ANNOYING AND GROSS...

AN IDIOT LIKE YOU...

...a truly extensive list of unsavory compo-nents!!!

Ou-

Ough... That's pretty harsh...

in a really mundane way...

I DISLIKE YOU DOWN TO A MOLECULAR LEVEL.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

GREH...

IF YOU HATE ME SO MUCH, IT'S FINE IF I GO AWAY, RIGHT!?!?

THEN...

YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL!!!

YOWCH!!

IT'S YOU.

...

Hahhhh...

...NOW THAT'S ALL JUST A LIE.

I- IT'S NOT A LIE!!

I TOLD YOU, NAGI WILL TAKE OVER FOR ALL THAT!

NO.

IT'S YOU.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JOINED UP WITH ME

TO GET ME TO A DUEL WITH YUKARI.

YOU'RE THE ONE I JOINED UP WITH

TO HELP OUT THE SQUIRTS AT TANPOPO GARDEN.

Did she just call me "Hage"?!
It's "Nagi"
"Nagi"...um...?
Hage?
WHO PROMISED ME.
NOT KUROGANE HAGE, BUT YOU, KUROGANE HAYATE. YOU'RE THE ONE...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE THAT PROMISE.
*Hage means "Baldy".
NO NEED TO BE COMING AROUND NAGGING AT ME.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL MAKE SURE EVERY LAST CENT IS PAID IN FULL.
TCH...
AS SARCASTIC AS EVER.
Ni-hi-hi-hi
Always the same
That was sarcasm?
PERHAPS I MEANT TO SAY... "BE PUNCTUAL IN SETTLING ACCOUNTS."
I'M OFF TO LEAD THE STUDENTS TO SAFETY.
Hi-yo!
WHAT AM I, A LOAN COMPANY?
I FORGOT MYSELF, HALFWAY THROUGH.
WHAT INDEED?
Ahhh, geez
Just go away already
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
YOUR TALK'S WAY TOO POETIC FOR ME.
IT CAN ONLY BE FREED BY THE HAND THAT DROVE IT THERE.
THE LONGER IT REMAINS, THE MORE DIFFICULT THAT WEDGE BECOMES TO DISLODGE.

THE PROMISE YOU MAKE, BELONGS TO YOU.

FOR-EVER.

EVEN IF YOU TRY TO PASS IT ON TO SOMEONE ELSE,

YOUR SHARE OF IT DOESN'T GO AWAY.

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

EURGHHHH...

crawl

crawl

crawl

EUGH...

EU...

Doooo!

GWFOW!

BACKSIDE

EYAhh!!!

YOU LITTLE... WITH YOUR BACKSIDE...!!
WH...!
I DUNNO GOOD FROM BAD ANYMORE!!
OOF...!
SWORD... USE YOUR GODDAMN SWORD...
QUIT SAYING ALL THIS HARD STUFF!!!
YOU WANT A FUCKING PIECE OF ME, BRAT!?!?
GUH!
I DUNNO!!!
IT'S TURNED INTO A WRESTLING MATCH...
Good lord how ugly
YIKES ...
.....
.....
.....
Oh dear
ENOUGH OF THAT!!
スゴゴ
FOR BOTH YOU AND NA-
I WANT THE BEST...
GERGH!

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT I LIKE OR DON'T LIKE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT HAGE THINKS SHE WANTS TO DO.

It's Nagi.

She's doing that on purpose, isn't she?

Erragh...

...IT'S NOT *ABOUT* HOW THINGS MIGHT TURN OUT FOR EVERYBODY ELSE.

Snatch

.....
.....
.....

Oogh...

.....
.....
.....

brain-shock...

What a magnificent

Haah

Haah

Haah

Her

Stagger

ABOUT WHETHER YOU HAVE THAT LOVE INSIDE YOU, OR NOT!!

IT'S ABOUT YOU!

I'm a Lover to the Limit

MY AYANA-LOVE HAS BEEN AT FULL CLIMAX SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING.

NOT ME!!!

THIS GUY!

DO YOU LOVE THIS GUY HERE, KURO!?

MROW!

~~~~~
~~~~~

ME...

MY...

I...

I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOUR OWN MOUTH.

WHAT-EVER THAT ANSWER MAY BE,

WE'LL MAKE AN END OF THIS WITH THAT.

FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT OTHER STUFF FOR A MOMENT.

AND JUST ME TELL ME, AGAIN, HOW YOU FEEL.

I

REALLY LOVE THE SWORD.

I

...

Ooh

REALLY, REALLY LOVE TENCHI.

Oy gevalt

Phew...

I WANNA STAY HERE STEALING STARS MY WHOLE ENTIRE LIFEEEEE...
bwoah
...
THEN SAY SO SOONER, DUMMY.
AND WIPE YOUR NOSE.
You can't stay your whole life
WAHHHHHHHHHN

I GOT IT.

SO LET ME GO AHEAD AND SAY IT BLUNTLY TOO.

Eh!?

All that stuff before now... wasn't blunt?

thud

RIGHT.

DON'T JUST PASS YOUR PRECIOUS SHINYUU OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE!

STAY HERE.

DON'T GO.

Yeah...

BA-THUMP...

You'd really, really come to regret it!

...!

SNIFF

THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP

Hraow

IF YOU UNDER-STAND, THEN TAKE THIS SWORD.

INSIST ON YOURSELF!

AYANA...

I...

.....

.....

.....

OH...

AH, SHOOT. I REDIRECTED SOME OF IT TOWARD A GROUP OF STUDENTS.

THEIR FAULT FOR BEING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT.

Well, they'll be fine. They're swordbearers, right?

Wha!?

You're being too careless, Hikaru-san!

Whatever doubts or reservations I still had...

were all blown away by a landslide.

EY AG H

ROLLROLLROLLROLLROLL

SNAPSNAPSNAP

Aghh Ayanaaa

KARO ganeee

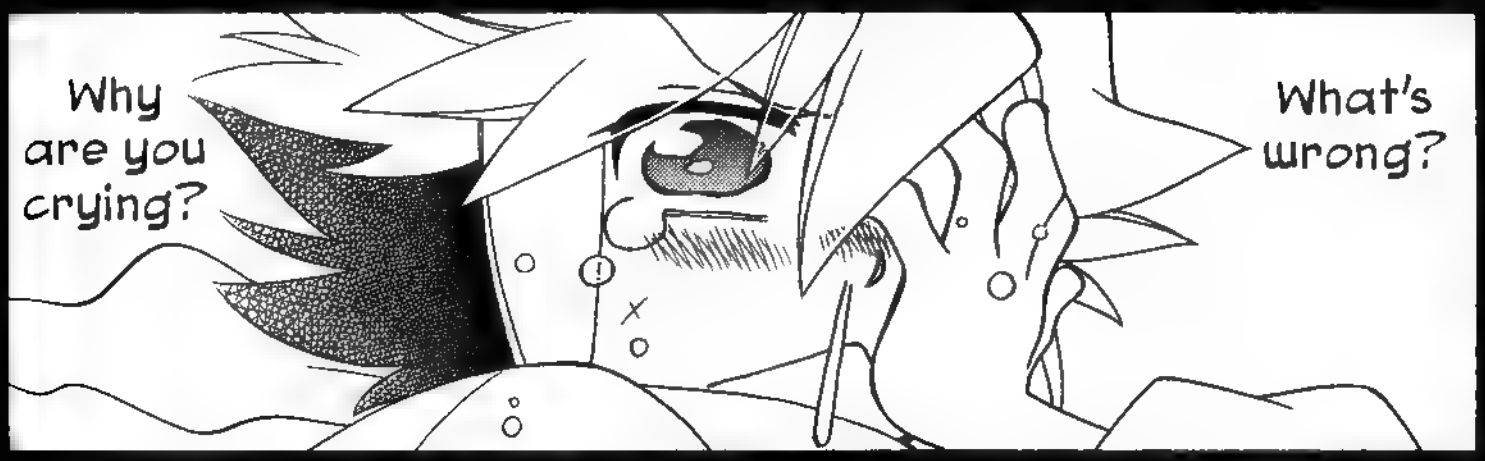
KARO gane sar MaDou sar

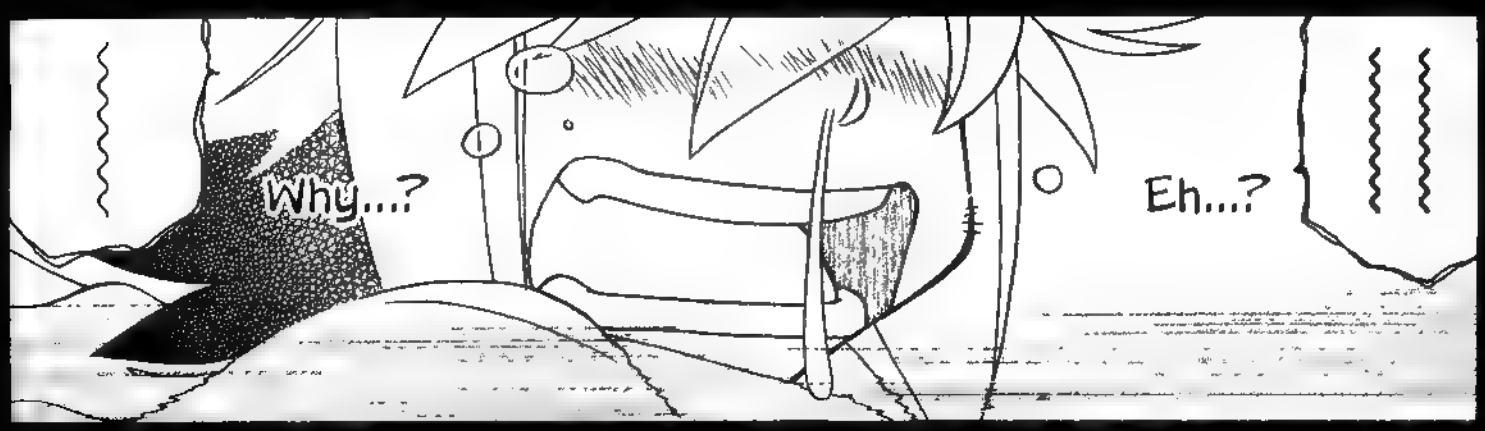
H H H

Farewell, my friend
...

×HAYATE
CROSS
BLADE×

Nagi.





Why are you saying a thing like that?

#71

Gone with the Idiots

WE GOT THE SAME THING HERE. NOTHING YOU CAN'T JUST SLAP A BAND-AID ON, RIGHT? STICK AND MOVE, STICK AND MOVE!
LOTS OF CASUAL-TIES TO TEND TO?
HM? AT THE STARTING GATES?
YEP, 2ND HQ POST HERE.

...IF YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT GENDER YOUR PATIENTS ARE, MAYBE YOU SHOULD START BY RETAKING THE QUALIFICATION TEST.

If you're a man, go for the big-game injuries!!!

ALL THESE PATHETIC LITTLE BRUISES AND SCRATCH-ES...

glint in your eyes over every little thing!

Don't get that

roar

Good for you, huh? Good luck

HAVING PLENTY OF WORK ON YOUR HANDS IS JUST THE WAY YOU WANT IT, RIGHT, CAPTAIN?

WHAT IS WITH THIS TIDAL WAVE? THIS SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A BAD JOKE?

CHRIST,

AGHHH...

Slap

HOW ASHAMED I FEEL, TO HAVE COME BACK UNHARMED.

AHH, THOSE WORDS CUT ME DEEP...

Senpai!

Eegh another little tiny one

DON'T WORRY! THAT'S SOME-THING TO BE PROUD OF!

What does it matter how big they are!

I'm talking about what a bunch of lame, gutless little duck-lings they are!

TRAMP

TRAMP

TRAMP

TRAMP

YO!

HOW YOU DOING, STUDENTS? EVERYBODY OKAY?

I JUST RAN INTO THE PRESIDENT BACK THERE, DRESSED ALL WEIRD AND RIDING AROUND ON A HORSE, AND SHE HANDED THIS OFF TO ME.
NAH, I DIDN'T REALLY LOOK FOR HER OR ANY-THING.
Yikes
Right o, leaving it to you, Nurse
TONAMI-SAN...
EVEN IN THE MIDST OF ALL THIS, YOU WENT TO FIND YOUR SHINYUU?
I SEE ...
?
What a beautiful display of friendship...!
Waba-m
Well...
You'd better go tend to the others instead
It's too late to save this one
Flower Garden ?
Right !
Oohhh, like that farm with the whey pigs and soft caramel
Satisfy..
Pretty hyped-up, Yoshitake
They have their circum-stances, too.
SHUT UP, DIPSTICK! YOU'RE IN THE SAME PLACE YOUR MIND ALWAYS IS, THE GODDAMN FLOWER GARDEN!
Where is this, Nancy...? Heaven, or hell?
Uogh...
Nancy...?
cheep
cheep
Universe?
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ABOUT REACHED THE LIMIT. THOUGH AT LEAST THE QUAKING HAS STOPPED...
THEY MAY SAY THEY WANT TO CONTINUE, BUT...
SO IN THE END, WHAT'S TO BECOME OF IT?
THIS "GREAT RANDO-RI"...

IT'S A SHAME TO END IT WITHOUT EXPENDING ALL OUR EFFORT, BUT...

NOW IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF WHETHER...

IF THOSE TWO CAN JUST COME DOWN REUNITED, THAT'LL BE ENOUGH.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ON THAT COUNT.

AHH...

ANY OF THE REMAINING STUDENTS CAN TAKE THAT STAR BEFORE THE EVENT'S CALLED.

.....

.....

.....

Progress beyond this point has now been prohibited.

YOU WERE CARRYING ON ABOUT FISH OR SOMETHING, WERE YOU NOT?

Injured students please report to the nurses

You can all head our once we call roll

ENSUU.

WHAT'S WRONG? BORED ALREADY?

Nothing to worry about here either.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO RIGHT NOW, ENSUU?

?

That's right...!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR MEAT, NOT FISH...!!!

THE RIVERS WILL FLOW ONCE MORE...

I'VE MADE MY CHOICE.

FISH CAN WAIT.

WRENCH

OHOHO HOHOHO HOHO

WRENCH

WRENCH

OH- OH-

WRENCH

GOING OFF AND DECIDING SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING ON YOUR OWN!

GOD, YOU REALLY ARE THE WORST!

yank

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY, STILL SKULKING AROUND, PEEKING BACK...

yank

ugh

GOING OFF AND SULK-ING...

I'm SNOWY

SHUT IT!! I'M SAVING YOU HERE!! BE A LITTLE GRATEFUL!!!

AYANA! STOP! NO, AYANA!

OWOW OWOW OW!

OW!

Why are you pulling me out by my FACE!?

IT'S COMING OFF!

AGh- GA-GA- GA-GA!

tug tug tug

MY HEAD'S COMING OFF!

oh no

POP

It really, really pisses me off

how much you're like me!!

O...

.....
.....

bwueeen

AYANAAAA...

CAN'T BE HELPED.

BUT...

I GUESS THAT'S WHY WE BECAME SHINYUUS.

HAYATE.

IS THAT ABOUT ENOUGH, NOW?

RIGHT, RIGHT.

Hanage means "nose hair."

HA NA GE !!!

gi...

You guys are the worst

WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO BE ANYMORE...? DON'T BLEND THEM.

HA...

!

NA...

sk rt

STAMP STAMP

IF YOU ARE, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU HURRY IT UP AND STEP ASIDE.

ARE YOU HANDING OVER YOUR POSITION TO ME, OR AREN'T YOU?

STAMP STAMP

I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD A STRAIGHT ANSWER FROM YOU.

LOOKS LIKE WE CAN FINALLY TALK UPFRONT HERE.

ANY-WAY...

STAMP

TIME TO DECIDE. ABOUT EVERY-THING.

SO?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

BA-DUMP

.....

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

.....

.....

.....

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

she still isn't

...

this is no:D

BA-DUMP

X

Nome!?
NOME! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!!
n-
MYOW!
'CAUSE... 'CAUSE I PROMISED!

SO I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU, NAGI!

THIS IS MY PROMISE TO KEEP, SO...

TH-

AND...

AH, I SEE. GOT IT.

THEN, LET'S GO WITH THAT.

I TOLD YOU, I GOT IT.

Not recommending today's specials...?

I was just saying something real important, y'know...?

Nagi?

YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT, AREN'T YOU?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, I NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE "LEAVE" OR "HAND IT ALL OVER."
"IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE," IS ALL I EVER SAID.
turn
Eh...
Is that right?
I WAS FINE WITH YOU GOING EITHER WAY.
SO...
SINCE YOU CHOSE TO FIGHT ME,
THAT SETTLES IT RIGHT THERE.
THEN...
WE'RE GOING TO DUEL FOR IT?
WE CAN JUST SKIP THAT PART, TOO.
I DON'T WANT YOUR STUFF, ANYWAY.

Huh !!?

WHY NOT JUST TELL HER THIS FROM THE BEGINNING AND SAVE US THE TROUBLE!!?

THIS IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE!

SHE SEEMS LIKE A *HUGE* PAIN IN THE NECK.

ESPECIALLY NOT THAT SHINYUU OF YOURS.

...

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD'VE UNDERSTOOD. MUDOU-*SENPAI*.

IT'S SOMETHING *SHE* DECIDED FOR HERSELF.

?

!

FIRST THINGS FIRST, NEED A SHINYUU.

STILL GOT THE SAME WORK TO DO, BEFORE I CAN START DUELLING FOR REAL.

WELL...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND!!!

BUT...

Wha-

YOU UNDERSTAND, AYANA?

WHICH IS IT, AYANA!!?

...

...

I UNDER-STAND...

Yeah!!

IF YOU'VE STILL GOT STUFF LEFT UNDONE ONCE I CATCH UP TO YOU,

I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THAT PROMISE OF YOURS OR WHATEVER...

ONCE I'VE GOT MYSELF ONE, IT WON'T BE VERY LONG.

BETTER HURRY, HAYATE.

SINCE THAT'S THE RULE HERE AT TENCHI, RIGHT?

METEOR

AND SMASH IT MMPH

thump

SO THAT BALL WAS STILL AROUND!!!

crash

NAGIII !!!!!!!!!

IN THE MIDST OF MY FIGHT, A WARRIOR CLAD ALL IN BLACK APPEARED AND SET OFF A BUNCH OF TRAPS WITH HER HORSE...

IT WASN'T A GYM-NASTICS ROUTINE...

I ENDED UP GETTING CHASED ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE BY THE INDY BALL...

STAGGER

Just what is going on up that slope?

STAGGER

WOBBLE

Hurse?

THIS EVENT IS IN ITS DEATH THROES, ISN'T IT?

BOSSS SSSS!!!!

WHY WERE YOU BALL-ROLLING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!?

SLITHER

Hah-

Hah

IT'S STOPPED...? THANK THE SAINTS...

OOH HA HA...

NURGH ...

...

Right Mizuchi-san?

Yes

WE'D FIGURED IT'D END SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

NO, IT'S FINE...

WE PRETTY MUCH EXPECT-ED...

Hreh-he-he

I REALLY APOLOGIZE... I HAD MEANT TO HELP YOU, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE INTRUDED TERRIBLY...

—...

SHE RE-DID IT, HUH?

She's punctilious in some pretty worthless ways

ARE YOU OKAY!!?

NAGI!! Oohh!

Hold up!

Exit

Wobble

I'LL SMASH IT, GOT IT?

...

Sorry...

BUCKLE
OOF!!
BOSS!
HA...
HA HA.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY REACHED MY LEGS.
ROLL
MERCY ME...
WHAT A STATE OF AFFAIRS!
BOTH ME AND THE MOUN-TAIN—
WE'RE CUT AND BRUISED ALL OVER!
AND YOU TWO AS WELL...

I EXPERIENCED A HOSHITORI THAT DRAGGED EVERY LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH FROM MY BODY...

BUT TODAY,

FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME!

THAT'S AS EVER IT IS.

SWORD-BEARERS SPEND THEIR LIVES ALWAYS SCUFFED-UP AND RAGGED.

Ooh, there they are.

They're still alive!

Oh, thank goodness

Ha ha ha!

CAN'T EVEN LIFT A SINGLE FINGERTIP, CAN YOU?

I think I've... gone past my limit, too...

Yeah...

Hearing that... kind of brings all the fatigue crashing down at once...

droop

ALL THE MORE SO BECAUSE WE'RE LITTLE MORE THAN AMATEURS.

RIGHT, THEN.

JUST ONE STRIKE REMAIN-ING.

Hum?

FINISH ME OFF, KUROGANE-DONO.

BOSSSSS...

EHM...

...

GO AHEAD AND TAKE THIS FOR YOURSELF.

IT'S FINE.

THAT'S WHAT I WISH.

F-

FINISH YOU OFF!?

WHY!?

pull

LET'S KEEP RUNNING! WE'LL HOLD OUT TILL THE END!

WE WORKED SO HARD TO PROTECT THAT!

MIDDLE-SCHOOL-SECTION OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU... IT'S *STILL* A PRIVATE SCHOOL. IF YOU CAN'T BRING YOUR GRADES UP WITH FINALS, YOU COULD BE IN REAL TROUBLE.

Ah

KURO.

YOU MISSED QUITE A BIT OF SCHOOL, DIDN'T YOU?

TAKE THE STAR.

USE IT TO GET THAT EXAM EXEMPTION.

.....

.....

.....

...RIGHT! THANKS BOSS!

CHOPPED HER UP LIKE A DAIKON...

OHOUGH!

bwwwaan

TWEEEEET

THE GRADUATING STUDENT'S STAR HAS FALLEN!

IT'S ALL OVER!!

For real??

THE VICTOR:

MIDDLE SCHOOL, FIRST YEAR, CLASS C,

KUROGANE HAYATE!!

What...

SO EVEN SHE WENT OVER FROM THE GRADUATE'S SIDE IN THE END?

IT'S A ROUGH WORLD...

Unexpectedly blackhearted of her

Kurogane-san?

TWEEEEET

TWEEEEET

WELL, THANK GOOD-NESS FOR THAT AT LEAST...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO, IF THEY HAD TO STOP IT BECAUSE OF ME...

Ouch ouch

What are you saying!

YOU CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE THAT YOU BASICALLY RUINED THE EVENT ANYWAY!!

clout clout

Y...

Yeah

I guess that's yeah

THE CURTAIN DROPS.

THE FOOT-SOLDIERS OF THE SWORD HAVE EXPENDED THEIR ALL.

EACH HAVING REACHED HER PARTICULAR CATHARSIS, THEY DESCEND FROM THE STAGE.

I'M NOT GOING TO START WORKING PART-TIME JUST TO PAY FOR YOUR EATING HABITS!

COULD YOU TRY PUTTING A CAP ON THAT GLUTTONOUS LIFESTYLE OF YOURS?

COULDN'T GET MY HANDS ON THAT EDIBLE GOODS OPTION...

DAMN IT...

Good-for-nothing loafer!

Enh, at least I got to eat lots of rice balls

CHANTING THE LEGENDARY SKIT-ENDING INCANTATION, "DAFUN-DAAA"!!!

Why Shimura's gag!? This is the time for Ikariya, right!?!?

FOR WHAT!?

IS RIGHT NOW THE TIME, OUKA!?

NOW?

Ah!

Among all this devasta-tion!!

NOW HURRY UP AND CHANGE, AND START GIVING OUT INSTRUCTIONS SO WE CAN WRAP THIS THING UP.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS BASICALLY A FAILURE.

What is this? It's over already?

FUMBLING ABOUT AMIDST THE FOG...

THE VAST MAJORITY DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON.

WHAT AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND. OF THE ONE WHO JUST RAN THE ENTIRE DISASTER-CONTROL SYSTEM BY HAND!!!

CLEAN IT ALL UP.

WELL THEN, TO START OFF WITH, TATEWAKI.

AH, INDEED. POST-EVENT MANAGE-MENT.

Ka-pwing

WHAT BOLD WORDS, FROM THE ONE WHO JUST DUMPED A LANDSLIDE ON MY STUDENTS.

I saw the whole thing

Wa!

Hop

BUT OF COURSE.

EVEN IF THEY'RE PERFORMING ON A TATTERED STAGE...

WE'LL NEED TO RESOLVE THEM ALL IN TIME FOR NEXT YEAR.

THERE IS NO LACK OF PROB-LEMS TO ADDRESS.

WE'RE DOING THIS *AGAIN* NEXT YEAR!!?

YOU MEAN...

For real?!

I'm heavy

Hatewatari sama, this armor is really heavy

—BUT, THAT SAID, I HAVE CAUSE FOR REFLECTION MYSELF.

OUR CONTIGENCY PLANS WERE ENTIRELY INADEQUATE.

FLAP

Hikaru san

THOUGH, AT LEAST SOME FORM OF RESOLUTION WAS REACHED.

Hweh?

I dunno... Going through this every single year would be pretty rough.

ARE THEY GOING TO DO THIS RANDORI AGAIN NEXT YEAR?

HM?

WHAT'S UP, YUUHO?

...

Hey, Jun...

I'VE GOT EVERYBODY HERE WITH ME.

Ohh, Yuuho?

Myyyyyaw

Sigma?

It's boring having to just watch.

I sure hope they do.

It seemed like so much fun.

NO FAIR

to be out there with all of you, swinging a sword around.

I really wanted...

AND SINCE SIGMA'S GONNA BE IN IT NEXT YEAR, IT'LL BE A HUNDRED MILLION TIMES *MORE* FUN!!!!

IT WAS SUPER A LOT OF FUN!!!

WELL, I GUESS I'D BE LYING IF I SAID IT WASN'T...

FUN? ...WAS IT?

MMM...

Could I trouble you to carry me down the mountain?

I really can't move my body at all...

Terribly sorry to bother you while you're busy, but...

That final blow was rather effective.

Wheeze

Wheeze

Why can't you just hold back a little!!

AUGhh!! BOSS IS AT DEATH'S DOOR!!!

TO SEE MY SWORD-BEARERS—

BOTH THOSE DEPARTING, AND THOSE WHO WILL REMAIN—

SO RECK-LESS, SO ROWDY, SO CAKED WITH DIRT AND SWEAT...

NO MATTER HOW FAR INTO THE PAST THE MEMORY MAY RECEDE...

Who's the one causing a bunch of trouble for everyone and calling it fun!? Is it this one!?!?

GWAUGH

It'll come off, Hudou-san!

Hudou-san! Swinging her by the hair is dangerous!

Ayana, that's a bit much!

YOWWWW

EACH TIME I RECALL IT TO MIND,

THE SIGHT WILL ALWAYS DAZZLE MY EYES.

...

WELL...

NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

...

RIGHT! ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

IT'S A SIGHT TO DAZZLE THE EYES, ALL RIGHT.

AND YET ANOTHER SCENE OF DEVASTATION AWAITING US WHEN FINALS START IN TWO DAYS...

THE MOUNTAIN A COMPLETE MESS, EXHAUSTED STUDENTS LYING AROUND IN HEAPS LIKE WORN-OUT DUSTCLOTHS...

I'm getting dizzy again...

slump

CLAP

Chop chop, everyone, Let's pack it up! QUICKLY and cheerfully!

Honestly and seriously

No no, President Just this once we're going to have a nice, Long discussion about our plans.

AH,

KURO-GANE-DONO.

AND... MUDOU-DONO,

I WANTED TO PLAY TOGETHER A WHOLE LOT MORE!

MAN, THAT SEEMED FAST! IT'S ALREADY GRADUATION??

Hello

was it not?

B-

O-

SSSSS!!

WHAT AN ABRUPTLY OMINOUS REMARK.

SOMETIMES IN LIFE THERE ARE UNNATURAL SHORTCUTS LIKE THAT. ALMOST LIKE A MANGA THAT'S SUDDENLY HAD ITS SERIALIZATION CUT SHORT.

Ha ha ha!

SEEMS LIKE WE WERE JUST ON THE MOUNTAIN, DOING THE RANDORI...

NO FUN...

Him?

45th Co... ...cement

KURO-GANE-DONO...

Time is whose relative?

...

THE FUN TIMES SHOOT PAST LIKE AN ARROW.

SIMPLY A WAY OF SAYING THAT TIME IS RELATIVE.

No it's a metaphor, right?

THAT IS A SWORD THAT BELONGS TO YOU ALONE...

My sword?

No, I always had it with me

YOUR SWORD HAS FINALLY RETURNED HOME TO ITS OLD SCABBARD.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.

AND ONE THAT...

AFTER YOU LEAVE TENCHI, YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SWING IN QUITE THE SAME WAY AGAIN.

THAT'S THE KIND OF SWORD I MEAN.

I'LL TREASURE IT!!!

She doesn't get it

R... RIGHT!

OH HOH...

SO IT'S *THAT* KIND OF SWORD, IS IT?

THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LEAVING SUCH A PRECIOUS THING IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE?

MASTER!!?

TAKE THAT WITH YOU, GRADUATE.

MIKADO AKIRA!

BUT... DOESN'T THIS SWORD HAVE TO BE RETURNED?

IT'S TO BE TREATED AS PERSONAL PROPERTY. PRESIDENT'S WISHES.

WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO WITH THAT OLD, WORN-OUT THING ANYWAY?

IT'LL BE THE SAME FOR EVERY OTHER SWORD-BEARER WHO GRADUATES.

OH, AND ALSO—

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TRY TAKING THAT WITH YOU, TOO?

THAT GOT LEFT BEHIND AT THE FAREWELL PARTY.

THERE WAS ONE OTHER THING

...

I...

HOW-EVER...

SO SHE CAN'T HAVE ANY COM-PLAINTS.

"KEEP YOUR PROMISES," SHE TOLD ME.

THIS IS THE GENERAL'S WISH TOO.

BUT...

THE BELL HASN'T RUNG, TO DRAW OUR SWORDS—

HOW-EVER...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I...

I'LL GLADLY SERVE AS YOUR OPPO-NENT!!

BEGIN!

I ENTRUST MY SCABBARD TO YOU, KUROGANE-DONO!

of dragging myself forward along the ground, my face in the dirt.

Oh NO, WHAT DO I DO! WHO DO I ROOT FOR??

hWAhAOO!! BOSS VS. MASTER!!?

...

These have been days

VSSSHHHHH...

Are they fighting?

Ehh? What's going on?

That's a Whiteshirt

THAT STANCE

IS VERY WEAK!!

What!?

My dreams were always filled with the sword-masters from the stories

Yet it is just these very days

it nearly breaks my heart to leave behind.

VWOOSH

Before I realized, it wasn't those sword-masters...

ISN'T THE PERSON WHO'S GOING TO WIN SUPPOSED TO SAY THAT...?

That line about the stance.

EWEUGhhh!!

BOSS GOT INSTA-KILLED!!!

Instant-Style

What...!

When did she even draw her sword...?

GREH...

Agh!

BWISSHHHHH

Eeeek!

Bossssss!

But the sword itself,

that had ensnared me, body and soul.

HEH...

OWhA!!

DID She hIT YOU In The WRONG SPOT!!?

AHHH HA HA HA HA HA!!!

YOU OK!? THAT WAS AN AWFUL NOISE...

BOSS!

brok

brok

brok

I GUESS THIS IS JUST WHAT MY SWORD IS.

ALL THE WAY TO THE VERY END, I'M ON CLOSE TERMS WITH THE GROUND.

CLUTCH

THESE WERE TRULY FINE DAYS I SPENT HERE!!

I HAVE NOT A SINGLE REGRET.

FARE-
WELL,

TENCHI
ACADEMY.

YOUR STUDENTS ALL END UP RESEMBLING YOU, HITSUGI-SAN.

Stop it!
Why does it suddenly seem now like I made you cry!

ｽﾄｯﾌﾟｯ!!

Does it hurt Boss?!

There's an RPG that demands my attention

Can I go home now?

They've become self-sufficient?

YET... DISREGARDING, FOR NOW, THE UNSANCTIONED DUEL... WHAT IS THIS ATMOSPHERE OF EVERYTHING ALREADY BEING OVER?

...

THE ACTUAL CEREMONY STILL HASN'T EVEN BEGUN...

Auditorium Anteroom

[はやてXブレード]⑫・完

Trivia

Page 148

Flower Garden Farm (*Hanabatake Bokujou*), similar to Mother Farm, is a guest ranch, this one located in Hokkaido and famous for its soft-caramel candies (nama caramel) and whey-fed pigs. The enterprise is run by entrepreneur/television personality **Tanaka Yoshitake.**

Page 163

The comedian **Shimura Ken** was known for closing out certain skits with the phrase "Da-funda", a meaningless expression of contempt. As Ouka notes, this gag is out of place here; fellow comedian **Ikariya Chousuke**'s catchphrase (*Dame da korya*, "This is no good!"), an expression of resignation in the face of the absurd, would be the more appropriate one.

Page 171

A **sword returning to its old scabbard** is a common analogy in Japanese for reconciling with someone, especially one's former spouse.

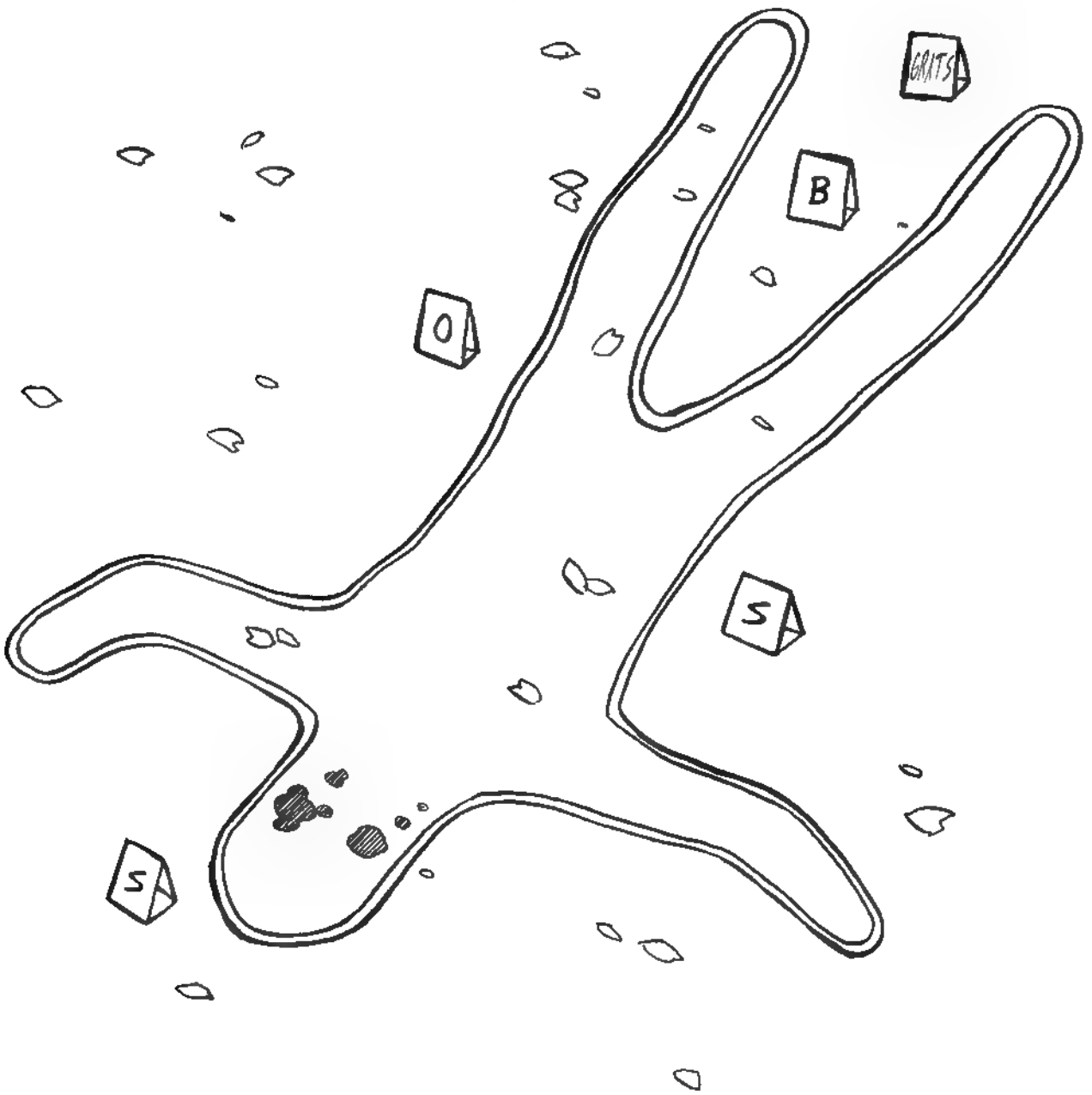
Page 174

Begiragon is a spell from the *Dragon Quest* games. It casts a large fireball.

Page 175

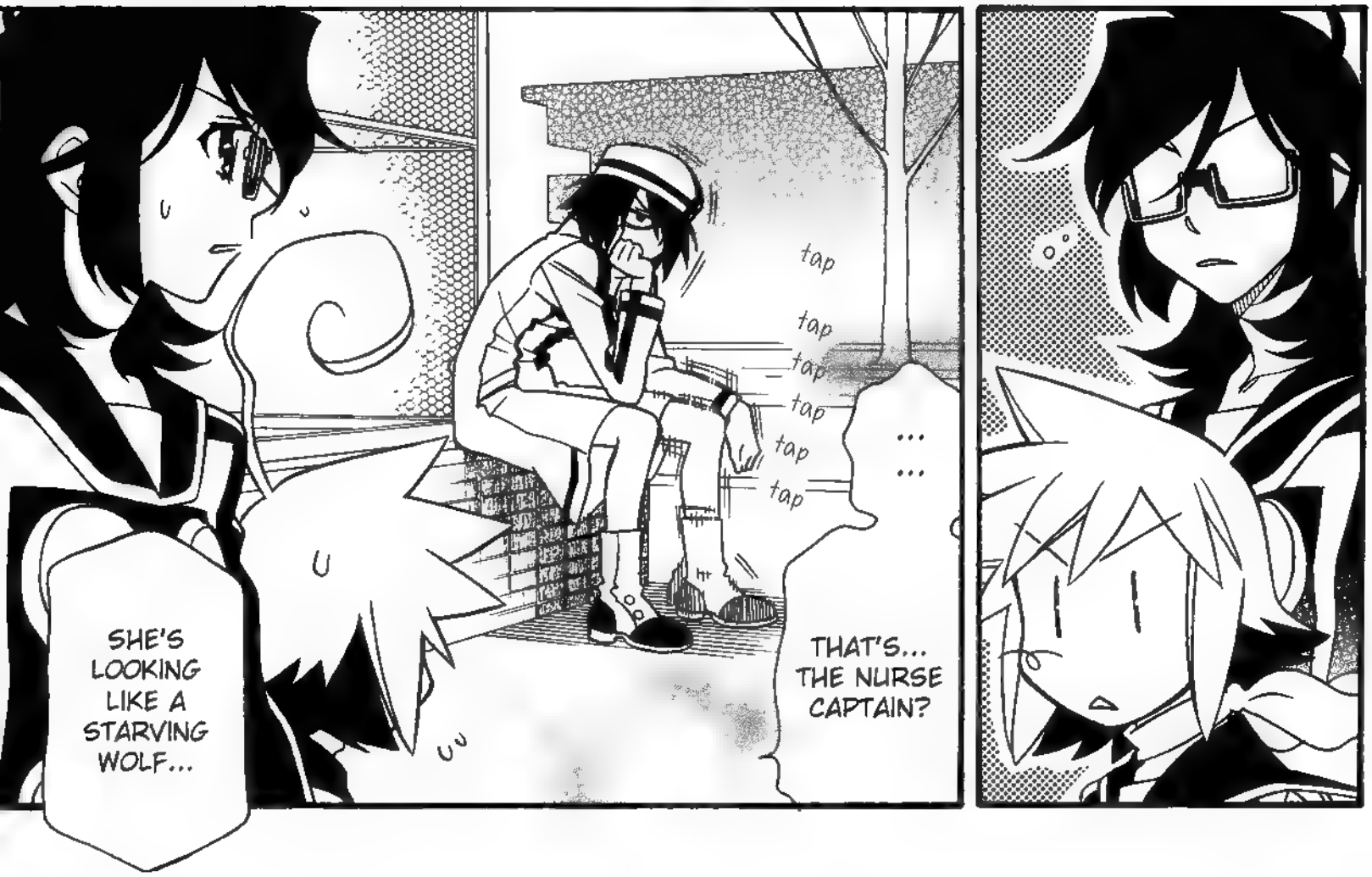
That stance is very weak: Makoto alludes to a line famously used by the swordmaster Hikita Bungorou before his duelling victories.

◦ GRADUATION MEMORIES ◦



#EXTRA

Big Idiot



JUMP
Ugh
I SEE YOU IN THE INFIRMARY ALL THE TIME...
YOU TWO...
OOHH...?
NO... I'M ACTUALLY FEELING PRETTY FINE TODAY...
YOU WERE PLANNING ON COMING AROUND AGAIN ANYWAY, RIGHT? LET ME SEE 'EM!
DON'T BE STUPID... IT'S A NURSE ASKING. OBVIOUSLY I MEAN YOUR BODIES.
tiempo
tiempo
STAGGER
SHOW THEM TO ME...
Huh !?
YOU CAN'T HIDE 'EM FROM ME!
DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S JUST BRUISE OR A SCRATCH OR SOMETHING TINY...
YOU'VE GOT SOME ON YOU, RIGHT!? WHIP 'EM OUT...!!!
"GOT SOME ON US..." "WHIP THEM OUT..." WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE AGAIN?
Ah
EYAGhhh!! EXTORTION!!
SHOW YOU... WHAT!?

AH!

THERE YOU ARE, CAPTAIN!

No, Captain, no! Calm Down!!

Show me, I'm begging Show you! me your wounded parts!

IT'S DANGEROUS RIGHT NOW, SO PLEASE DON'T GO TOO NEAR THE CAPTAIN.

WE'RE SORRY, YOU TWO. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH CAPTAIN?

WELL, WE DIDN'T, REALLY... SHE CAME AT US...

these aren't patients, captain!

THE ADULTS IN THIS PLACE ARE REALLY A HANDFUL...

We were trying to keep an eye on her,

but she made a break for it... Geez...

IF SHE'S LEFT ON HER OWN, CAPTAIN WILL GO OUT AND TRY TO *MAKE* PATIENTS.

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE STUDENT IN, **WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS.**

ENH?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT MYSELF, BUT COULD I BORROW SOME OF THE NURSE OFFICE'S...

My knee's a little scraped too...

I TOOK A BIT OF A FALL BACK THERE.

Better get it cleaned out...

AH, THERE YOU ARE, URYUU-SAN.

MEDICAL EMER-GENCY!!

SWOOP

WHA-

HOLD—

NO! IT'S NOTHING! IT'S JUST A LITTLE SCRATCH!!!

Ack!

Captain!

Captain, NO—!!

HEALTHY IS BEST!

Yeah...

THANK GOD WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY INJURIES...

...

...

HA HA HA

This is bad... If we don't stop her...

Leader will become a victim of medicine...!

SO...

I REMEMBER CARRYING KOTAKE HERE, BUT...

Hey. Do I maybe need to go to an ICU for this?

Hah—

Hah—

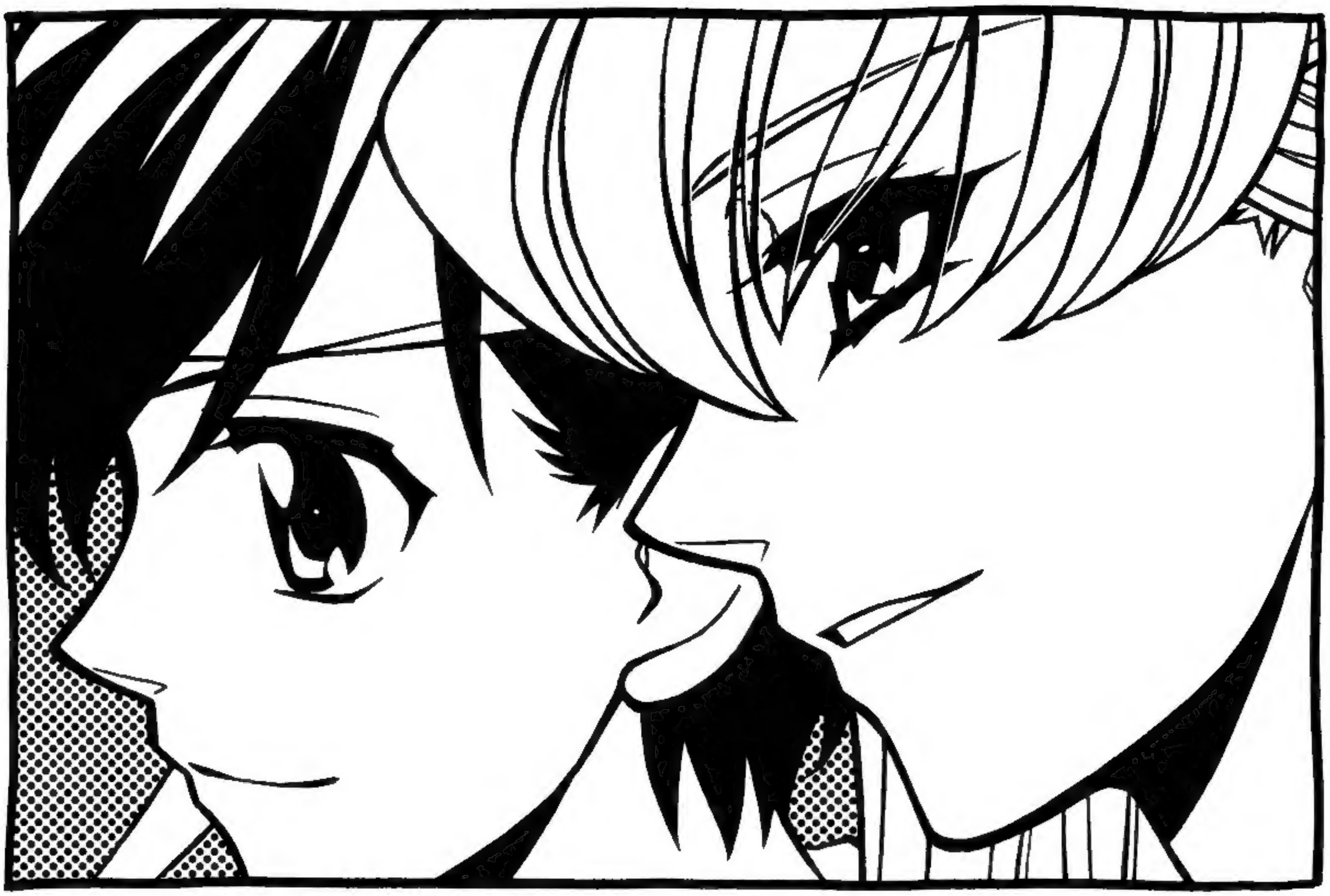
HOW DID I END UP LIKE THIS?

This person is just beyond help!

WHEN YOU TAKE SOMEBODY WITH A TOTALLY MINOR INJURY, STRIP HER DOWN AND SMEAR ANTISEPTIC ALL OVER HER BODY, I THINK IT *USUALLY* ENDS UP LIKE THIS!

Hoo...

Next Volume: kurogane & kurogane



AFTERWORD

Volllllllllume Twelve!!

It's Volume 12! I don't even understand anymore!!

Thank you very much! Next is Volume 13!
Well, I suppose that's obvious!

There's evidently also going to be some sort of special edition release for Volume 13!

Always thinking and thinking about things still on the horizon can be paralyzing, and my feelings start to want to run away, but I hope to be able to ride it on through without fleeing from reality.

I get a feeling like my Japanese turned a little strange there, but don't let it bother you.

Well then, till next time!

Hayashiya Shizuru
May, 2010

✿ Betrayal... equals death.
Once. Upon. A. Time. In. The. Assistant ✿ Makise Ren ✿

✿ New tankoubon-version editor ✿ K-san ✿ I look forward to working together!

✿ Previous tankoubon-version editor ✿ E-san ✿ Thank you very much for all your hard work!

E-san is hiding somewhere in Volume 11!

Hayate X Blade
Volume 12

Hayashiya Shizuru

Translation: Gulf Standard

Scans/Editing: Phyis

QC: Procyon, Ralen, Kari

Yuri Project
yuriproject.net